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FOR SIXTEEN YEARS, THE LESBIAN AND GAY WEEKLY

‘White Patriot’ cleared in gay murder case

*Attack on North Carolina porn shop in 1987
left three gay men dead and two seriously
injured*

By Jennie McKnight

SHELBY, N.C. — Former White Patriot Party member Douglas Sheets was found not guilty of participating in the January 1987 attack on a gay porn shop here that left three people dead and two severely injured. While the prosecutor in the case said he was shocked by the jury's failure to convict Sheets, other observers said the verdict did not necessarily indicate homophobic bias on the part of the jurors.

"It seemed like a case that could have gone either way," said Mab Segrest, who works for a group called North Carolinians Against Racist and Religious Violence (NCARRV) and followed the case closely. Segrest said the lack of physical evidence linking Sheets to the crime and the "impeachability" of the prosecution's main witnesses allowed the jury to find Sheets not guilty.

The Shelby attack took place late in the evening of January 17, when three armed men wearing similar brown corduroy coats and ski masks entered the Shelby III Adult Bookstore. While another man kept watch outside, the three masked attackers ordered the five men in the store to lie face down on the floor and then shot each of them in the head. Three of the victims died immediately: an employee, Travis Don Melton, and two customers, Kenneth Ray Godfrey and Paul Ten-Eyek Weston. Two other men, James Parris and John Anthony, survived but are severely impaired. After they shot the men inside the store, the attackers attempted to burn down the Shelby III with

gasoline firebombs.

Sheets and another White Patriot Party member, Robert Eugene Jackson, were indicted by a grand jury in November of 1987 in connection with the Shelby attack. Investigators, who had originally speculated that the execution-style shootings had been related to organized crime, said an informant had told them that the former White Patriots, a racist hate group that had officially disbanded in 1986, were responsible for the slayings and that their motive was "to avenge Yaweh on homosexuals."

Sheets and Jackson were arrested April 30 in Missouri, but not in connection with the Shelby case. They had been hiding out with White Patriot Party leader Glenn Miller and another man. According to NCARRV, Miller had gone underground to avoid indictment by a federal grand jury investigating the revolutionary network of white supremacists involved in weapons deals and plots to carry out a series of robberies and assassinations. Miller had sent a "Declaration of War" against "Niggers, Jews, Queers, assorted Mongrels, white race traitors, and despicable informants" to at least 3000 of his "fellow Aryan warriors" two weeks before he and the others were captured. When police arrested the men, they found a police scanner tuned to the frequency of Cleveland County, N.C. (where Shelby is located), clothes similar to those used in the Shelby slayings, and a huge cache of weapons and ammunitions.

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U.S. AIDS immigration policy fuels protests

*Despite changes in policy, INS detains British AIDS
worker and Danish researcher*

By Jennie McKnight

MINNEAPOLIS — The cases of two men who were detained June 2 by immigration authorities in Minneapolis and Boston have fueled protests over U.S. border policies excluding people with positive HIV antibody status.

Jim Wilson, a British national who was on his way from London to San Francisco, ran into problems in Minneapolis. Immigration officials there asked him about his HIV status after they discovered he was carrying AZT, an AIDS drug. The authorities told Wilson he could either withdraw his application to enter the country and be deported immediately, or appeal the deportation, which would mean he would be kept in custody for three to six weeks until a judge ruled on his case. Facing what he called "not a real decision," Wilson left the country June 3 after spending the night in a hotel guarded by an immigration official.

When contacted by GCN, Wilson said he was heading to San Francisco on business and to visit friends. As the International Liaison Officer for the British AIDS service organization The Terrence Higgins Trust, Wilson was being paid by the organization to conduct research while in San Francisco. In addition, Wilson said he was planning to meet with researchers at San Francisco General Hospital to discuss his possible participation in a drug trial for an experimental AIDS treatment, CD4.

"One of the things about the immigration officers that was really strange," said Wilson, "was that they couldn't understand why Terrence Higgins Trust would pay me to stay for six months in the United States. They said 'No company will pay you \$1500 a month to collect information about AIDS.'"

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Kate Wilson

Boston remembers with Pride!

*Lesbian pinkos, Gays for Patsy, hounds in lavender, and
Viennese-gentlemen-in-drag*

By Leigh Peake

BOSTON — On the twentieth anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, Boston's gay and lesbian community marked the passing of another year of gay history by stepping off with pride and raucous good cheer at the 19th annual Boston Pride march. Though some news sources cited a police estimate of 40,000 attendees, organizers claimed that over 60,000 participants crowded the march route Saturday, June 10. Pride is always an opportunity for the community to make a visible statement of solidarity and to applaud one another's struggles throughout the year. Yet this year's march was devoted to the task of remembering — remembering our stories, our challenges, our victories and our loved ones.

All the elements were in place. Breakfast at the S&S Deli in Cambridge was an all-gay affair — winks and nods bounced from table to table. The subway to Government Center (the starting point for the parade) was packed, and tourists at the Park Street stop were confused and overwhelmed by the parade of pink triangles. All this, however, was a mere preamble to the sea of faces at Government Center. Gay men, lesbians and bisexuals of all ages, races, religions and species (many a hound sported a Pride t-shirt and requisite lavender bandana, and at least one parrot was spied atop its owner's shoulder) gathered to celebrate and show their pride.

As is the tradition, Boston's own dykes-on-bikes, the Moving Violations Motorcycle Club, led off the march to a wildly cheering crowd. They were followed by an extravaganza of music, politics and creative dress as group after group passed by, banners held high.

The all-women's percussion group Batacud Belles sounded out a solid underbeat, the Gays for Patsy Cline broadcasted Patsy's soulful country tunes, and trucks and floats sponsored by Boston-area bars

kept the dance music blaring. While some missed the traditional presence of Somewhere Else, the lesbian bar that closed due to fire in February, they nevertheless greeted the new kid on the Cambridge block, Indigo (a recently opened women's bar) with enthusiasm. The popular gay men's disco Chaps stole the show with a flat-bed truck chock full of Viennese gentlemen and gentlemen-in-drag. Elegant gowns and finery were complemented by white wigs, powdered faces and classical music. In stark contrast, dancers from the Boston Ramrod gyrated in leather or just plain skin. Finally, the Boston Freedom Trail Band escorted the crowd past the State House with old-time marching band favorites ("Oh, when the dykes go marching in..."). Regardless of where one joined the throng, the music kept participants and onlookers alike dancing and singing.

Boston's major gay and lesbian political organizations were an equally forceful presence. Mass ACT OUT's large cardboard clock measuring gay time, covered the State House gates. All were invited to record the events of the past 20 years on a Gay Time Line which decorated one marble wall. ACT OUT's t-shirts read "The First Lesbian and Gay Pride was a Riot," in reference to Stonewall. ACT UP/Boston focused its message on the failure of ASTRA Pharmaceuticals to make the drug Foscarnet (an effective treatment for CMV retinitis and herpes simplex) available to any but participants in clinical trials. Many in the march picked up the ACT UP cheer of "Act up, fight back, fight AIDS!"

The area's two major social/political organizations for younger gay men and lesbians — the Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth and Rhode Island Gay and Lesbian Youth — received rousing applause all along the parade route as onlookers

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Quote of the week

“Follow-up [of confidential reporting of people who are HIV positive] to assure adequate treatment and more aggressive contact tracing will become standard public health applications for controlling HIV infection and illness.”

— *Stephen Joseph, New York City Health Commissioner, speaking at the Montreal AIDS conference, in the New York Times. Joseph upset activists as well as others attending the conference by calling for widespread contact tracing and confidential, rather than anonymous, testing.*

Kids with HIV banned from pool

SAN FRANCISCO — HIV positive children will not be allowed to use the pool at the San Francisco Center for the Handicapped because center officials are afraid that they will expose others to HIV, according to the *World*. Members of the center's board of directors “are particularly interested in the possible transmission of the AIDS virus in a warm-water therapeutic pool.”

When staff members from openly gay supervisor Harry Britt's office and a client of the center protested the policy, center officials cited the “expert” opinion of Dr. Lorraine Day, who advises that people wear space suits as a protection against AIDS. Britt's office is currently trying to obtain other expert opinions from physicians at San Francisco General Hospital.

□ Saskia Gugler

Homosexual acts banned in Tennessee

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — A proposal to change the language of the state's sodomy law is one part of a sweeping overhaul of the sentencing code that is expected to become law here soon, according to *Dare*, a gay and lesbian weekly. In an effort to “eliminate archaic language” from the criminal code, members of the Tennessee Sentencing Commission (TSC) recommended, among other things, that the state's prohibition on “crimes against nature” be changed to a specific ban on all homosexual acts. The TSC pointed out that the prohibition is rarely invoked against heterosexuals.

After much debate, the TSC's recommendations were passed by both the state Senate and House of Representatives just before the adjournment of the 1989 legislative session. The proposed changes in the criminal code will become law November 1 if Governor Ned McWherter signs the bill, which he has promised to do.

Tennessee's criminal code currently prescribes a five- to fifteen-year sentence for anyone convicted of a crime against nature. The new statute will make homosexual crimes against nature a Class C misdemeanor and carry a sentence of not more than thirty days and/or a fine of 25 dollars.

If the bill becomes law, Tennessee will join five other states which specifically classify homosexual acts as criminal. Homosexual acts are misdemeanors in Texas, Arkansas, and Kansas, and felonies in Montana and Nevada. More than half of the United States have sodomy laws that classify both homosexual and heterosexual “crimes against nature” as felonies.

Dare reported that most of the media coverage of the bill focused on proposals designed to alleviate overcrowding in Tennessee correctional facilities.

□ Deb Schwartz

Gay school board president comes out

FREMONT, Calif. — A group of approximately 75 parents, students, and community leaders surprised many when they showed strong support for an openly gay school board president, according to the *Sentinel*. Robert Stipicevich has been on the board for four years and was elected president last December by his colleagues. In a recent issue of the *Sentinel*, Stipicevich came

out, saying, that he felt like it was “an appropriate time. I don't live in a closet, my friends and family all support me and I'm comfortable with myself.”

Although Fremont is a predominantly conservative area, Stipicevich has received praise from his colleagues as well as from parents and students. At the board meeting following Stipicevich's announcement, the crowd was overwhelmingly supportive. Some people criticized Stipicevich for not announcing his sexual orientation during the campaign and one parent, Dave Gavelle, described the president's homosexuality as “illegal.” When Carol Douglas, another parent, countered Gavelle's remarks, saying “I'm tired of sitting here listening to this. We're behind Bob 100 percent,” the crowd cheered and showed their support for Stipicevich by giving him a standing ovation.

□ Deb Schwartz

Gay rights bill goes to floor

BOSTON — The lesbian and gay civil rights bill was released by Sen. William Keating (D-Sharon), chair of the Steering and Policy Committee June 15, 28 days after it entered the committee (see *GCN*, May 21). The bill is scheduled to be debated on the Senate floor, beginning Monday, June 19.

Gordon Linoff of the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights said, “We expect several weeks of delaying tactics once it hits the floor.” One method of delaying debate on the bill is by attaching amendments, said Linoff. Arline Isaacson of the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus echoed Linoff's concerns, adding that possible amendments focus on foster care, housing, insurance, and religion.

Both Linoff and Isaacson emphasized that constituents should write and call their senators and urge them to vote against any proposed amendments to the bill.

□ Kelly Gaines

Denmark legalizes lesbian and gay marriages

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — The Danish parliament voted to legalize lesbian and gay marriages in late May. The law passed by a 71-47 margin and is expected to take effect October 1. Queen Margaret II must sign the legislation, but activists here say obtaining her signature is a formality.

A report in *Philadelphia Gay News* (PGN) said that the law received widespread support from members of parliament (MPs) of several different parties. All 5 MPs from the Christian Folk Party, however, voted against the legislation and said they planned to call for a public referendum. Supporters of the legislation doubt that enough MPs would back a public referendum, said *PGN*.

The law does not grant lesbians and gay men who enter into marriages the right to adopt children or to marry in churches (the ceremonies can be performed in city halls). Gay and lesbian activists here are working to change both of those restrictions.

□ Saskia Gugler

Abortion decision expected soon

BOSTON — MASS Choice and 55 supporting organizations are calling for a rally the day after the Supreme Court rules on the case that could severely restrict or lead to a reversal of women's right to legal abortions. The *Webster* case [see *GCN*, May 7] has been closely watched by pro-choice and abortion activists for several weeks. In the face of increasingly conservative decisions from the high court, activists fear that the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision which granted women the legal right to choose abortion could be overturned.

“The Supreme Court is poised to gut your legal right to abortion,” said Erica Foldy of MASS Choice. Foldy said that the high court is scheduled to hand down decisions for the next two weeks and that pro-choice groups expect *Webster* to be among the rulings. A rally at the State House will be held at noon the day after the court rules on *Webster*. “[Showing up at the rally] is the most important choice you'll make this

year,” said Foldy. For more information, contact MASS Choice at (617) 720-1880.

□ Kelly Gaines

Supreme Court attacks affirmative action

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Supreme Court ruled June 12 that bias settlements can be reopened, according to the *New York Times*. It was the latest in a series of decisions that seem to indicate a general attack on civil rights by a high court loaded with Reagan appointees. As the court shifts more towards the right, those who have benefitted from programs like affirmative action, a cornerstone of civil rights litigation, face severe setbacks.

The June 12 decision involved a case filed by a group of white firefighters in Birmingham, Ala. who charged that an 8-year-old settlement set up to increase the number of Blacks hired and promoted in the department discriminated against the white employees. This decision opens the door for other challenges to court-ordered settlements established to redress race and sex discrimination in employment. In writing for the 5 to 4 majority, Chief Justice William Rehnquist characterized these kinds of challenges as “reverse discrimination” suits.

In a June 5 decision, also by a 5 to 4 split, the court reversed an 18-year-old precedent by ruling that plaintiffs rather than employers must carry the burden of proof in discrimination cases. The court said that it is not enough to show that statistically a business has few people of color or women; it must be proven (by the plaintiff) that there is some other reason besides a “job requirement” that intentionally screens out people of color and women. In other words, there must be intentional bias without possible justification through requirements of the job. Employers are at times more responsible for the burden of proof, the court said in a decision in early May [see *GCN*, May 21], but a distinction is made between individual cases and intentional patterns.

During his tenure as president, Ronald Reagan appointed Sandra Day O'Connor, Antonin Scalia, and Anthony Kennedy and elevated William Rehnquist to Chief Justice. Byron White consistently votes with the Reagan bloc, giving the conservatives a solid majority on the nation's highest court.

□ Kelly Gaines

Art network for women prisoners

OAKLAND, Calif. — An art network for women prisoners, ex-prisoners and their friends is seeking to become a national network “with links to women artists in prisons, youth facilities, mental institutions and convalescent homes around the country.”

The purpose of Remember Our Sisters Inside (ROSI), according to its organizers, is to “give women locked-in the opportunity to communicate their visions through their artwork and writings beyond the walls, and to educate the public about locked-in women's lives.”

In addition to increasing contact with locked-in women, ROSI also seeks the energy and support of many people across the country. People who want to help out can distribute flyers, provide transportation, set up art displays, work on the newsletter or donate money, stamps or office and art supplies. For more information about the project, contact ROSI at P.O. Box 2821, Oakland, CA 94609.

□ Jennie McKnight

‘Coming out’ resources for prisoners

Gay and lesbian prisoners, who are inside for reasons arising mainly out of poverty and racial discrimination, are treated with much more contempt than those of us out here in ‘minimum security’. This is true both inside (fewer jobs for gays, especially now with AIDS, less physical safety & more parole requirements) and coming out (many halfway houses won't accept gays).

This is all the more true for those gay/lesbian prisoners who are upfront about who they are. Prison administrations can do this because ‘our community’ is so indifferent to, and thus is ignorant about, the enormous power of their bureaucracy over people's lives (The law/court bureaucracy is a whole 'nother story.)

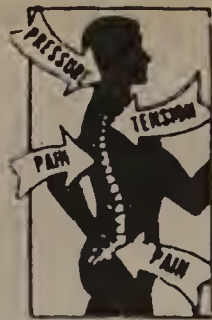
Help *GCN* support these people's ‘coming out’ (as basically all of them do!) by sending us up-to-date tips on AIDS Service Groups with prisoner education/support teams, job & training opportunities, low cost temporary housing, and any other info that could be useful to someone coming out with the stigma “ex-con.” (Imagine for a moment trying to set yourself up in a new town with little or no \$\$ and just out of the joint.) Better yet, let us hear that we can refer people in your area to you for such info!

Also, books (both educational & others) are harder to get in prisons, where ‘libraries’ (such as they were) are being converted to dorms when enough money can't be scared out of legislators to build new prisons. Ask your local gay/lesbian/lefty bookstore about the chance of putting a box there for people to leave books they've already read & will donate to a prisoner (& even a jar for postage \$!) This is a small project that gets you much gratitude from prisoners (who are driven a bit ‘mad’ stuck in a cage with nothing to do much of the time) and makes the prisoners feel less abandoned and thus less ‘scared’ about the coming transition back to the free world, or “minimum custody”, as they say. And it's easily done on a once-a-month basis. Write *GCN* for details if you like.

Most gay/lesbian newspapers don't even respond with a polite “Sorry...” to prisoners who ask for penpal ads or to express themselves in letters. How about writing your local rag about this. If they want to hear more about *GCN*'s experience with the Prisoner Project, just have them write us. Thanks!

Note to prisoners: You too can let us hear about groups that have helped you or friends of yours get started back outside. Let us hear about them, so we can pass the word along.

□ Mike Riegler



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Into the Gay '90s

Boston's annual Town Meeting emphasizes issues facing les/gay families and connections to abortion rights

By Judy Harris

BOSTON — In the aftermath of Boston's Pride celebration, lesbian and gay politicians capitalized on the energy generated once a year by the gathering of thousands of lesbians and gay men. Two days after Pride, the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights held a rally and lobby day for the Massachusetts Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights Bill. The following evening, the Greater Boston Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance, along with Pride Celebrations, Inc., held Boston's annual Town Meeting, which was entitled "Into the Gay '90s."

David LaFontaine of CLGCR explained, "We wanted to take that energy from Pride day and transfer it to the State House. I think Pride is probably the single largest gathering of any single constituency in the state, and not enough people are aware of that." Over 300 people gathered for the noon rally on June 12, and approximately 100 people lobbied their senators and representatives throughout the day, according to LaFontaine. The bill was released from the Senate Steering and Policy Committee June 15 and is scheduled to be debated on the Senate floor June 19.

The Town Meeting, held in Fanueil Hall June 13 was attended by close to 100 people. Openly gay Boston City Councilor David Scondras introduced the guest speakers for the evening — Karen Clark, state representative from Minnesota, and West Hollywood Councilor Stephen E. Schulte. Clark and Schulte outlined their thoughts about the future of lesbian and gay communities, emphasizing issues facing lesbian and gay families, and the need for lesbians and gay men to be involved in politics.

In the '90s, lesbian and gay activists will need to pay close attention to the fundamental questions about people's rights to control their bodies, lives, and sexualities, asserted Clark. She said that central to her concerns for the future of lesbian and gay politics are reproductive rights and the rights of lesbians and gay men to have families. Clark urged her predominantly male audience to make the connections between rights for gay parents, foster care equality, and custody issues related to surrogate motherhood. She added, "I believe we need to connect these issues of the right

to family and the right to reproduction to the bottom line reproductive rights issue...and that is the right of women to the freedom of choice to choose abortion."

In addition to reproductive rights and lesbian and gay family issues, Clark emphasized a need for hate crimes education in institutions. She noted that in 1987, a Minnesota hate crimes bill that had been previously filed in three legislative sessions was finally passed. The bill requires that police are trained to respond to hate crimes, and that hate crimes are documented. In 1988, the bill was amended to increase penalties against perpetrators of hate crimes.

Schulte also noted achievements made by lesbians and gay men in the last 20 years. The goals of the Stonewall Riots, he said, included freedom from sexual stereotypes, freedom from homophobic intolerance and anti-gay violence, and freedom of sexual expression. Although Schulte acknowledged that those goals have not been fully met, he said, "What is...not debatable is that while the majority of Americans certainly don't like or approve of gays and lesbians...we're also not unthinkable for most of them, and that was not a small achievement."

However, Schulte asserted that lesbians and gay men are still "second-class citizens," despite relative social gains made since Stonewall. "It seems to me that...if we're not being counted in the census, and we're not a federally protected class, we can't assume that others are going to plan for our future," he said. Schulte noted that the vast majority of lesbians and gay men are not active in politics, and he pointed to the civil rights movements of the 1960s as a model for lesbian and gay activists. He said, "I can't imagine Martin Luther King or Malcolm X or Rosa Parks not being so strong...if they didn't want to compel the rest of the community forward. No doubt about it, we have to feel the same way about the gay and lesbian movement. We have to think that we are part of a great social movement that is going to bring positive contributions socially in a way that people today perhaps can't even understand or imagine." □



International AIDS activists proclaim 'Silence = Mort'

Montreal AIDS conference: 'It was remarkable'

Highlights included a critique of the HIV hypothesis, sessions on art and AIDS, and ACT UP's treatment research proposal

By Colman Jones

MONTREAL — It was remarkable. In a stunning and unprecedented display of solidarity, AIDS activists and their supporters from around the world took over the stage June 4 at the opening ceremonies of the Fifth International Conference on AIDS. But what was equally remarkable was that they managed to keep their agenda on center stage for the full five days of the conference.

NEWS COMMENTARY

What started as a peaceful outdoor protest mushroomed into a triumphant march right into the main hall where over 13,000 delegates and journalists were gathered. Storming the stage, over 300 angry activists from ACT UP/New York and Montreal's Reaction SIDA chanted slogans and waved a colorful array of placards for a half hour. In a bid to persuade the army of PWAs and their friends to leave the stage, conference organizers reluctantly agreed to switch on the hall's public address system, so that a statement could be read to conference delegates.

Tim McCaskell of AIDS Action Now! began by confidently announcing "On behalf of people with AIDS from Canada and around the world, I would like to officially open this Fifth International Conference on AIDS!" His welcome was met by loud cheers from the packed rostrum. McCaskell went on to declare that it was unacceptable for a conference of this size to shut out the knowledge, wishes and needs of people with AIDS and that, from now on, these people must have a strong voice at all such conferences in the future. A brief statement in French was read by a member of Montreal's Reaction SIDA, followed by Conyers Thompson of ACT UP/New York.

When the conference organizers — visibly agitated by this point — tried to move the protestors off the stage, Thompson, taking charge of the moment, began reading "Le Manifeste de Montreal," a ten-point declaration of "The Universal Rights and Needs of People Living with HIV Disease," jointly drafted by ACT UP/New York and AIDS Action Now!

The manifesto calls for a multi-national effort to coordinate and facilitate worldwide development of new AIDS-related drugs and treatments, and for industrialized nations to assist poor and developing countries in meeting health care responsibilities, including the provision of condoms, facilities for clean blood supply, and adequate supplies of needles.

After reading the manifesto, the group left the stage and promptly sat down in rows of seats reserved for dignitaries and VIPs, all the while chanting "We belong here!" and "Start the conference!" much to the

consternation of conference officials. After another hour of tense negotiations that ended in stalemate, officials had no choice but to proceed with the opening ceremonies, which began with a video presentation entitled "At Risk," featuring heterosexual-only couples coping with the threat of HIV infection.

Needless to say, the video met with loud boos and hisses from the activists, who also heckled Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. His speech, filled with platitudes about compassion for "AIDS sufferers," marked the very first time the Canadian leader has ever spoken in public about the nine-year-old epidemic.

Mulroney's address was followed by that of Zambian President Kenneth Kuanda, who coincidentally included one of the manifesto's demands in his speech — the calling on Western nations to convert military spending on nuclear weapons to medical, health and social services funding. The plea was met with loud cheers from the activist contingent, but silence from the vast majority of the delegates.

The spectacular disruption of the opening ceremonies set the tone for the rest of the conference, which was the subject of continued daily protests on a broad spectrum of issues, ranging from New York City's plan to institute mandatory contact tracing for HIV-infected individuals to the special concerns of women, the scapegoating of sex trade workers, anonymous testing, and AIDS-related discrimination.

The conference was also different from those of previous years in its expanded reflection of Third World concerns in the symposia and plenary sessions. Much stress was given to the need for culturally-sensitive education programs specifically tailored to the unique attitudes towards sex and sexuality in different countries.

One of the week's highlights was the unveiling of ACT UP's National Treatment Research Agenda, which clearly set out many of the critical issues around current research into promising treatments. The detailed and comprehensive plan of action listed five drugs that need to be released immediately, seven others that need faster testing, and general guidelines for future drug research.

In addition, it called for a restructuring of the current AIDS drug testing system and suggested new models for conducting necessary clinical trials. As such, the document is an unprecedented call to action directed at the medical and scientific establishment from the very people whose lives are at stake.

But the conference was not free of conflicts within that establishment either. On Wednesday, Dr. Joseph Sonnabend — a New York microbiologist and community physician who has treated hundreds of people with AIDS since the very beginning —

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Dennis Schuetz dies

Prolific writer was co-author of Nathan Aldyne mysteries

By Michael Bronski

BOSTON — Dennis Schuetz, who gained fame under the name Nathan Aldyne as co-author of the popular gay mysteries *Vermillion*, *Cobalt*, *Slate*, and *Canary*, died of AIDS at Brigham and Women's Hospital on May 5. He was 42.

The various facts presented in the *Boston Globe* obituary — that he was born in Parkersburg, W. Va., that he graduated from West Virginia University in 1970, that he attended the Orson Welles Film School in Boston, and that he worked for the Department of Public Works here — give us very little sense of Dennis' real life. Dennis saw Boston as the ultimate escape from his West Virginia roots.

Like many other young gay people, Dennis came here to fulfill his creative dreams. His specific aim was to attend the Orson Welles Film School (a short-lived alternative learning place connected to the now-defunct Orson Welles Cinema in Cambridge). While he never lost his interest in film — I remember when he got his VCR and called to tell me that after a month he was still renting three movies a night, just to catch up on what he had missed — from the late '70s on — he was staking his claim to fame on becoming a writer.

I first met Dennis when I interviewed him for the *Boston Phoenix* after *Vermillion* (which he co-authored with Michael McDowell) was published. The book — the first in a series of four — was set in Boston and featured a detecting duo of Daniel Valentine, a handsome queen, and Clarissa Lovelace, his straight woman friend. The books used local gay places and events as their basis (*Vermillion* was partly based on the Dale Barbary murder in 1978), and they were also witty commentaries on the genre of mystery. Part Nick and Nora Charles sophistication and part camp, *Vermillion*

was one of the first "gay mysteries" that managed to wed strains of gay male culture to established literary forms.

During the interview, Dennis couldn't wait to tell me which characters were based on local gay personalities and which bits paid *homage* to the works of James M. Cain, Dashiell Hammett, and Dorothy Sayers. In fact, part of the thrill of reading the Valentine/Lovelace books was discovering that slightly hidden subtext of both local and literary allusions.

In other works of fiction with McDowell, Dennis showed himself to be not only a clever and credible writer but also a pungent social critic. *Blood Rubies*, written under the name Alex Young, is an incredible montage of horror story and astute psychological and class analysis. *Wicked Stepmother* is a frothy *grand guignol* that wittily dissects the nuclear family as well as the conventions of fairy tales and domestic dramas.

Dennis also wrote an extraordinary amount of *porn* — both soft and hard — for gay skin magazines. Usually publishing under the name of Jeff King (who is also, incidentally, the first murder victim in *Cobalt*), his work appeared in *Honcho*, *Drummer*, *Stallion*, and *Mandate*.

Besides his writing, Dennis was a wonderful conversationalist and witty *raconteur*. He knew an enormous range of people and was able to mix raunchy bar talk with the highest literary allusions when you bumped into him strolling through the Fenway or on his way about the Boston Common.

In addition to his parents and siblings, Dennis leaves many friends and his companion, John Delvany. □

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Angered with a vengeance against brothers and sisters

Dear GCN:

I am writing this letter to you and all the Brothers and Sisters out there to let you all know I am thinking about you all, and there isn't a day when I don't think of how I first felt when I first received GCN. I thought someone was playing a headgame with me about there being a Gay Newspaper, until I saw it for myself.

Well, anyways that's not all I'm writing about. First I want you to know that the 'Choice Words' I'm going to be using in these paragraphs are not intended for you GCN people because you've printed what I sent in and been very good about getting me a paper to tell me how my people out there are doing.

Well, I've got that part out of the way, so let me get down to brass tacks. I'm hoping if you print this you'll title it 'Angered with a vengeance against brothers and sisters'. Well, to begin this fiasco, since you printed that last letter of mine I've only received one letter by a Very Concurred Lesbian, who's a Southerner just as I am. I can't give out the name but she does understand my situation and it felt great to hear she's on my side.

But I'm ashamed of all the brothers and sisters out there who never lifted even a finger to protest us gays in here not getting treatment as respectful as the straights. If you can't do this then I say you are as ignorant and thoughtless as the Rednecks, Skinheads, Nazis, and the list is endless of people who you claim to be nothing like. Why would you not at least write half a page and send it to the warden protesting their contempt for us gays?

I'm almost 26 now, an adult, mature, civilized, I try to keep hope in my ownself about you all out there. But I can't stand up for you if you continue to act as if we're not alive in here, as if we don't exist.

I guess I've said all I care to say, but please, a lot of stuff happens in here I can't go into because I'd be risking my own life in doing it, but I swear this has got to end, and I mean soon. I need someone to take this situation seriously. I and the other gays in prison are human beings too, and the Outside world shouldn't forget it or ignore us.

Robert Byrd
14841
818 Jefferson Ave.
Moundsville, WV 26041

The Fenway took a giant step away from our dream

Dear GCN:

I write in pain and I write in outrage. Last Friday night, June 9, I went to the Berklee Performance Center in Boston to watch a benefit for the Fenway Community Health Center, which was called the Provincetown Review. Early on, one of the men performing made several racist remarks that left me unsettled: (Could I have heard that right?) When performer Big Ed began his part of the show I was stunned by the level of his racism, offensiveness and insensitivity.

As the anger mounted in me, so did the pain. This man was performing in front of the banner of my clinic, the institution which employs me and a place I love. At the point when Big Ed baited one of the Black men in the audience with his pinky ring, saying it had better still be in place when he got off stage, even though the "blood" must like it and want it, I walked out.

I am ashamed to say that I did not disrupt his performance. His language, his

caricatures, his stereotyping, and his music — which were all brilliantly executed — were intolerable in their malevolent perpetration of all of the ugliest and most divisive characteristics of this culture. They simply are not acceptable at any level in any place.

When I climbed on stage after his performance, between acts (before I was ejected by the security guards), I wanted to say that. And I wanted to apologize for the fact that such venial sentiments had been put forth at a benefit for our new clinic, had been put forward in support of the Fenway. I also wanted to share my pain, a pain that I have carried for the 20 years I have been a dyke, that this intolerable bigotry is a part of gay culture. It hurts me to hear the extraordinary talent that is part of the humor and culture of the gay male community turn oppression inward and then outward, twisting and torturing the ugliest sentiments into the snappiest songs, lashing out where we are most oppressed and most vulnerable to play for a laugh.

Three months ago I moved to Boston to take a job at the Fenway. In many ways, it is a dream job, caring for my own people in an environment that is medically rigorous, sensitive, and profoundly respectful of clients. I love being a doctor at the Fenway. For me, it is a gift to be able to care for my brothers in our own institution in this epidemic in this time. I am also deeply moved by our work doing lesbian health care.

But as good as it is to work at the Fenway, we have profound limitations. The limitations of the possibility of excellence, for me, in my job, are the limitations apparent from this benefit. They arise from the unfinished business of confronting our racism internally and externally. They are part of a consciousness which invited a performer like Big Ed to volunteer his time for us. For when any of us are demeaned, the possibilities for all of us are diminished.

I believe that we at the Fenway face a challenge from this event. The dream that compels me and many of my colleagues in this work is the dream of diversity: care equally accessible to all the members of our lesbian and gay communities, regardless of race, class, finances, or marginality. Care delivered in a sensitive and imaginative way by a variety of providers. Care shaped by all of the people who want it. Care defined by empowered clients whose experience of oppression becomes transformed into a tool to reshape medicine and redefine health.

I believe we took a giant step away from that dream in the course of our benefit: in inviting this performer, in not stopping his hateful performance, in not taking on this issue. I write to apologize and to affirm my own commitment as well as that of many other staff members at the Fenway to struggle against racism and the other oppressions within our work and outside it, oppressions which limit the possibilities of health in our communities and within this culture.

Sincerely,
Barbara Herbert, MD
Cambridge, Mass.

Fenway apologizes for racism at benefit

Dear GCN:

On behalf of the Fenway Community Health Center staff, board and volunteers, we thank the people who attended last Friday's "P'town Review" to benefit the health center's building fund. We are grateful for the donations of time and talent from the performers and the Berklee School of Music.

We publicly apologize for the racism evident in two of the performances which offended many of us in the audience. We can assure our supporters that at future events we will explicitly inform performers of the values held by the health center prior to accepting their donation.

We appreciate all of our supporters who continued to be so generous with their time and resources during pride weekend. It is an exciting time in the history of FCHC as we break ground this month for a new three-story fully-equipped modern health center. It is a tribute to the strength of the gay and lesbian community.

As we prepare to build a new health center, we reaffirm our commitment to make it a safe and comfortable place for our entire community, in all of its diversity.

Dale Orlando, executive director, FCHC
Harry Collings, associate director, FCHC
BOSTON, MASS.

Gay Community News is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of ten, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors elected by the membership.

Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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SEX. POLITICS.



gay
COMMUNITY
NEWS

"GCN consistently covers the intersection of sex & politics which is often the location of our troubles & our joys — both individually & collectively. GCN is simply the most interesting publication for lesbians & gay men in this country." — Sue Hyde
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Crimes of power: patriarchal violence in America

By Bill Strubbe

What is going on in our country? A man named Salcido in California slaughters his wife and six others, including three of his own babies; young women are found mutilated and discarded along highways in garbage bags; a man sprays machine gun bullets over a playground killing a half a dozen children; eight teenaged boys brutally rape a woman in New York; an angry postal employee guns down fellow workers.... The list of atrocities goes on and on and on. Almost every day, somewhere in America, another heinous crime is committed on the innocent public.

What inherent quirk in our national character engenders America's monopoly on psycho killers and mass murderers? Nowhere else in the world does civilian bloodshed occur on such a regular, ongoing basis. Our senses are assaulted with the seemingly senseless mayhem every night on the evening news, glaring at us from the daily headlines. We shake our heads in abject horror, shudder at the thought it could be one of our own family, and then continue on with life. The incident is chalked up as just another isolated act of another crazy.

And that is where the gross mistake lies. The question at hand is not one of the sanity of the particular man committing the crime, but rather the sanity of a role society perpetrates and trains us to live by; a role that has developed through a unique blend of an archaic patriarchal ideology, a history of intense individualism, and the increasing stress of a society that measures success solely in material terms.

Frustrated men (and most of the atrocities are committed by men), unable to wield their diminishing power and control, release their rage by unleashing guns and/or penises to show those perceived as thwarting their "rightful" assertion of power, that they're real men. Extreme violence is the natural consequence of gender roles based on the assumption that power is the right of men over women, over nature, over each other. Rape, child abuse, racial and homophobic induced violence, and mass murders, are motivated by the need to exert power by frustrated, impotent men. There are no such things as "crimes of passion," only crimes of power.

A widespread, mistaken notion is that violence is begotten out of anger. Violence arises not out of anger but out of a sense of hopelessness and powerlessness, when the irreconcilable disparity between an individual's inner program and the cold reality tears a soul in two. Rage is accumulated anger held in, unexpressed, suppressed, festering.

Individuals and society need to explore ways to cultivate and encourage the expression of anger, of all feelings, whether it is grief, anger, joy, or love as legitimate parts of the human experience, particularly the male human experience. The only "negative" emotion is one that is denied.

Americans as a whole are like teenagers: loud, brash, always right, arrogant, generally insensitive, surely immortal. The endless posturing and bravado masks the underlying insecurity. As a culture we are still young, with our historical roots firmly entwined with a recent past where guns were a way of life. The right of the private citizen to bear arms was an insurance against tyranny, packing a pistol was an intrinsic part of survival for pioneers and cowboys pushing west. Though now obsolete, millions of Americans insist on holding tight to their pistols, rifles, semi-automatics, missiles, the ultimate penis extensions. Just as individuals pass through the various stages of emotional development, so do communities and societies. As a nation, it's time to abandon the endless summer of adolescence, to examine ourselves, to grow up.

As evidenced in a recent national survey, those of increasingly higher incomes are more likely to be depressed and dissatisfied. Wealth and power do not ensure happiness. Yet our society seeks to emulate and glorify the lifestyles of the rich and famous by airing such TV shows as the one of the same name. Madison Avenue foists upon us its mass consumption mentality with the lie that bigger and more is better. And doesn't a President's wife, flaunting Dior gowns and expensive jewels, understand the obscene hypocrisy of telling the disenfranchised and poverty-stricken of this country to "Just Say No" to drugs, while even their meager aspirations to decent health and a home of their own will likely never be realized.

ed. The rush and cash flow from drugs is the closest they'll ever get to a feeling of power.

There is a direct connection between issues of poverty — drug abuse, alcoholism, low self-esteem, frustration, powerlessness, rage, mass murders, violence, guns, nuclear stockpiles. Men's persistent denial of the nurturing, gentle, female aspect within is ultimately reflected in a lopsided federal budget in which 60 percent supports the military and the building of more nuclear bombs. The Pentagon guzzles and drains our finances while impoverishing human resources. For the price of one Stealth Bomber we could fund AIDS research and hasten a cure, eliminate poverty, feed the world. We could perform miracles, but men would rather risk their children, their families, the destruction of their planet than relinquish their perceived power and control.

We need to encourage girls and boys, young men and women, to discover and nurture their natural strengths and abilities, not society's imposed vision. A California school district's implementation last year of a self-esteem program, a visionary attempt to attack the national problem at its roots, was ridiculed by the press and the ignorant as "only in California" innovation.

Instead of being laughed at, this evolutionary program could have deep, far-reaching implications 20 years down the road, another potential Salcido may have learned early on that boys are not intrinsically better than girls, that it's okay to be male and feel angry or afraid and talk about it, that forms of conflict resolution exist other than fighting with a classmate — or fighting in a war — without being called a sissy, that the true measure of power and success is loving yourself and learning to nurture other men and women as equals, as co-creators of life on this planet.

Until then, Salcido, and others like him, will continue to simply act out the bit of craziness incubating in us all.

Bill Strubbe is a free-lance journalist/writer living in San Francisco. He is involved in anti-nuclear and peace work.

In support of Denise McWilliams

By Board Members and Friends of Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD)

We are compelled to respond to Stephen Skuce's *Speaking Out* column in the June 4-10 issue of *GCN*. Mr Skuce is certainly entitled to his opinion, and has every right to voice his opposition to H.226 [the partner notification bill reported favorably out of the Mass. Legislature's Joint Health Care Committee recently-Ed.]. However, we take issue with his vicious personal attacks on several members of our community and in particular his attack on GLAD AIDS Law Project Director Denise McWilliams, which smacks of misogyny and a knee-jerk oversimplification of the issue. We leave it to Denise and others in the working group [whose recommendations formed the basis for H.226-Ed.] to address the specifics of H.226 and how they reached their decision.

Mr. Skuce's implication that anyone who does not agree with his point of view is an enemy of the gay and lesbian community is arrogant, divisive and potentially destructive. It is particularly ironic that his column appeared on the eve of Gay Pride Week, when our community traditionally celebrates its strengths and achievements and embraces its diversity. Most troubling of all is his malicious and baseless character assassination of a member of our community.

Perhaps only those of us who work closely with Denise McWilliams, or have done the kind of work that she does, can fully appreciate the enormity of her task. When she became the AIDS Law Project Director in 1986 there were no legal experts on AIDS issues; she found herself in virtually uncharted waters. In the course of her work, Denise has had to keep abreast of the

volumes of ever-changing, often contradictory new medical information (an awesome task in itself) as well as legal developments throughout Massachusetts and the rest of the country as well. Because of the urgency of many of her cases (such as a person with AIDS being denied medical treatment, or insurance benefits) she must make critical strategic decisions on a daily basis, often without the luxury of being able to debate the pros and cons with others, and knowing that whatever she does may have a profound impact on her clients' well-being.

Denise receives dozens of phone calls every week from people who have experienced HIV-related discrimination. She must assess each case, provide information, make appropriate referrals, or, as she often does, take the case on herself. She lives with the daily reality that even when she achieves the best possible results for her clients, most of them still die, sometimes before they know they have won their cases. As anyone who has been represented by or worked with Denise can attest, she represents all of her clients with skill, compassion and uncompromising integrity.

In addition to client representation and case management, Denise participates in countless seminars, trainings and other educational activities — often in very hostile forums — to bring the reality of AIDS-related discrimination to public officials, the business community, and the public at large. She is an articulate spokesperson and tireless advocate for the rights of gay men and lesbians, and for all persons affected by such discrimination.

Mr. Skuce's implication that Denise is

somehow growing rich off of the lesbian and gay community would be laughable were it not so cynical. We know only too well that she is woefully underpaid and perilously overworked; if she were to take her expertise and experience to one of the so-called "downtown" law firms she would easily make three to four times what GLAD is able to pay her. Denise undertakes her work at tremendous personal sacrifice, both economic and emotional. She has turned her back on career options that offer far higher pay, significantly more prestige, and far less stress and personal loss, to help those in our community through the most difficult of times.

We at GLAD are proud and thankful that we have people like Denise McWilliams on our staff. Her dedication and compassion are second to none; she deserves the respect and gratitude of our entire community.

Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) is New England's lesbian and gay rights legal organization. This Speaking Out was signed by Jan Platner, Cindy Rizzo, Brian Feit, Danny Yu, Hillary Smith, Barbara Dickey, John Ward, Mary Gentile, Neil Miller, Julie A. Frohlich, Don Bracken, Sieng-Huat Chua, Gary Buseck, Barbara J. Macy, Sandra Smales, Tim McFeeley, Donna McKay-Randozzi.

The opinions expressed in Speaking Out are those of the author(s) and are not intended to represent the views of the GCN membership.

I hope I make it

Dear GCN:

I would like to get your paper. I'm in prison here in Texas. One or two of the other inmates get GCN, but getting them to share the paper is like trying to pull a molar. And by the time I do get one, it is so back dated you would think it should go to the Smithsonian. I can't pay for it, but I would deeply appreciate it if I could get it.

I guess I should tell you a little about myself. I am 32 and have AIDS. I was first diagnosed in 1985. I guess I am lucky to still be around! I also got into trouble the same year as my diagnosis. I got probation.

In 1987 my companion was diagnosed with KS. I have had my ups and downs with this illness, but nothing could have prepared me or my companion for what we were to go thru between his having chemotherapy and radiation for the KS, and the sickness that goes along with it. We both were very scared. But we were there for each other!

In '88 my companion took a turn for the worse. Around that time I got a minor probation violation and my probation was revoked! As a result the past came back to haunt me. I got five years. The judge was not very compassionate to say the least. That was April of '88. My companion died while I was and am still in prison. My hands were tied. Since his death I feel I have lost everything. I have no support in this 'penitential nightmare'. And would welcome any correspondence from inmates and other people. I come up for parole in December. I hope I make it. I have my health right now and plan to keep it. Who knows. Maybe I can get a penpal or two thru you folks.

Love and light
Bryce Moon
485233 Ramsey II
Rt 4 Box 1200
Rosharon, TX 77583

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Typesetting Business Coordinator

Available end of July. Coordinate income-generating typesetting business. Typeset regularly published newsletters and journals, on deadline; handle business accounts.

Qualifications: experience typesetting (knowledge of Compugraphic Editwriter helpful), familiarity with or ability to learn light book-keeping, and commitment to lesbian and gay liberation.

Hours: Part-time, varying from two to 12 hours/week during weekday evenings and weekends.

Salary: \$8/hour plus some benefits or \$10/hour without benefits.

Deadline for application: July 5.

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Available mid-August. Increase sales of GCN through subscriptions, newsstand, and bookstore sales. Use direct mail campaigns, renewal notices, exchange advertisements and other promotional techniques. Secure revenue-producing classified advertisements.

Qualifications: Experience in sales, advertising, marketing, and finances desirable, but will train. Copy writing ability and graphics/design skills helpful.

Salary: \$200/week plus health/life insurance, routine health care through Fenway Community Health Center, sick leave, and four weeks paid vacation. GCN offers staff members responsibility for their own jobs, with flexibility and ample room for innovation.

Deadline for application: July 14.

All GCN positions require a commitment to lesbian/gay liberation, feminism, anti-racism, an awareness of class issues, and a commitment to collective decision-making process.

To apply for these positions, please send resume and cover letter to GCN Job Search Committee, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.

OBITUARIES

Elgin Blair

TORONTO — Elgin Blair, long-time activist for gay and other social change causes, died here of a brain tumor on May 13. He was 64 years old. One of his many accomplishments was helping to found the Unitarian Universalist Office of Lesbian and Gay Concerns at the denomination's Boston headquarters. The following are excerpts from a tribute to Elgin that appeared in the June, 1989 issue of the *UULGC World*:

'A National Treasure' — that's how one of his friends and colleagues describes Elgin Blair, a rich resource of knowledge and understanding accumulated from a lifelong fight for social justice; a modest, practical man of action, broad experience, thoroughness, and integrity.

Born in California and raised near Ottawa, Ontario, Elgin early in his life developed a keen awareness of social injustice and a distaste for violence. Out of high school and into the Air Force as a bombardier for four years, he never dropped live bombs. Besides delivering practice bombs in remote areas, he delivered only food via low-level flights over Holland. After the war he finished his formal education at the University of Toronto.

His interests in information and social change steered him into a series of social action positions. He worked with Canadian Friends Service Committee, operated a book service for African Students Foundation, established Clippety-Clip news clipping service for social change groups, researched mercury pollution for the Kai Visionworks collective, and worked twelve years with Insight Books.

He helped organize International Union of Socialist Youth. During the 1960s he worked for Canadian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, became a board member of the London Indian Friendship Centre, and was a United Nations Associate. While living in London he sent textbooks to Alabama and Mississippi through London friends of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). In Toronto he was part of the Social Action Committee of the First Unitarian Congregation.

During the 1970s he was a founding member of Community Homophile Association of Toronto, the Unitarian Universalist Gay Caucus, and Gay Equality Mississauga. During the 1980s he was a founding member of Older Lesbians and Gays Association and Gays and Lesbians Aging. Elgin was also involved with Gayline West (phone counseling), the Canadian Civil Liberties Association's Coalition on Gay Rights in Ontario, Canadian Independent Review of Police Action, and Canadian Gay Archives.

Over several years he worked in the New Democratic Party and was a founder of the Green Party in Ontario. Very active in the Greens, Elgin ran in the 1984 federal election, established Green Books information service, took part in many committees, and was network coordinator of party chapters in Ontario. The list goes on.

A powerful catalyst for social development, fighting injustice in many forms and building alternative institutions, Elgin created his own world and helped recreate ours.

□ John Kyper

Robert Hart

BOSTON — Robert Hart, 30, died on Tuesday, June 6 of AIDS. An actor, songwriter, and social worker, Bob wrote and performed four songs for the musical *Alive with AIDS* earlier this year. He was an active participant in the Living with AIDS Theatre Project, sharing his experiences and supporting others who had been touched by the AIDS crisis. His songs spoke eloquently and sometimes bilingly of the range of emotions experienced by PWAs. From the vaudevillian "SRO" (in which he hopes for a standing-room-only crowd at his memorial service) to the sharp satirical commentaries in "You're a Research Subject" and "Mr. AIDS," to the steamy torch song of desire for another "PWA," Bob's message was that humor is a universal healer, fostering acceptance and nurturing the soul.

Bob was born and raised in Baltimore and attended George Washington University in Washington, D.C. before transferring to Boston's Emerson College. He held a B.S. degree in Communication Disorders, and was working on a master's degree at the Boston University School of Social Work when he was diagnosed in 1987.

After his graduation from Emerson, Bob worked as a counselor at the Lindemann Mental Health Center. He then worked at the Carney Hospital as a Mental Health Counselor, and later as Director of Admissions for the Psychiatric Unit there. Combining his love of theatre and his professional life, Bob toured hospitals with a children's theatre group, interpreting performances in American Sign Language for hearing-impaired children.

A memorial service was held on Friday, June 9 at Emmanuel Church, attended by his parents, Gerry and Edmund Hart, his sister, relatives, and numerous friends.

□ Stacey Cooper

Doug Kibler

LAGUNA BEACH, Calif. — Dr. Douglas Kibler, a year-round resident and medical director of the Provincetown Drop-In Center, died recently in Laguna Beach, of AIDS. He was 41. A memorial service was held in Provincetown May 7.

Doug was born in New York City, grew up on Long Island, and received his medical degree from the State University of New York in Buffalo. He worked as a doctor with the U.S. Public Health Service in upstate New York before moving to Provincetown in 1975. Like many who have come here, "Dr. Doug" found his home and became deeply connected to the people and the natural environment. His warmth, intellectual curiosity, and competence were appreciated by the hundreds of residents and patients he met in Provincetown. He returned here often for visits and vacations.

Doug moved to California in 1979 for a residency in Family Practice, which he received from the University of California, Irvine in 1981. He joined the staff of the student health services and was appointed acting director in November, 1988. He also taught medical students and donated his services at the Laguna Beach Free Clinic. He opened a private medical practice in 1984. He worked diligently for AIDS education and services, and served on the Board of Directors for the Southern California Physicians for Human Rights.

A memorial tree will be planted in Provincetown for Doug. Donations may be sent to The Regreening Committee/Provincetown Family Tree Project, care of Wendy Everett, 4 Central St., Provincetown, MA 02657.

□ Jay Critchley

White Patriot

Continued from page 1

Cleveland County District Attorney Bill Young, who prosecuted the case against Sheets, told *GCN* that although much of the evidence seized in the trailer was similar to that used in the Shelby attack, none of it could be conclusively linked to the bookstore slayings. Young had to rely primarily on the testimony of witnesses who said that Sheets told them he had participated in the murders.

The witnesses, whom Young described as "jailhouse snitches," all, at one time or another, had been housed with Sheets in various prisons. The reliability of the testimony of these witnesses was challenged by the defense, who argued that they testified in exchange for leniency in their own cases. One of the prosecution's witnesses was Glenn Miller, who got 95 years off a possible 100-year sentence on weapons charges, according to Segrest.

"The state's evidence was very strong," said Young. "Six people testified that Sheets said he had done it.... I cannot speculate on the motive of the jury.... The state had a good case and the jury chose not to believe it," he said.

As a result of the Sheets decision, Young said he has dismissed the charges against Jackson and hopes federal prosecutors will take on the case. "The evidence in the Sheets case is almost identical to [the case against] Jackson; in fact, it was stronger against Sheets," said Young. He said his ability to effectively prosecute Jackson is further limited given the fact that several of the witnesses involved in Jackson's case are "scattered all over the country." By not pressing for a trial now, however, Young or federal prosecutors are free to reinstate the charges later.

When asked whether the verdict of not guilty in the case might send a message to

Continued on page 7

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Unraveling sexuality in Germany: 1910-1945

Desire is wonderful in its attention to distinguishing the experiences of men and women

Desire. Directed by Stuart Marshall. Screening in the New York International Festival of Lesbian and Gay Film, at the Biograph Cinema, June 18. (See other reviews of films in the Festival, this issue and GCN, June 4. For a complete schedule of films through June 20, call 212/866-6516.)

By Colin Robinson

The British documentary *Desire*, one of the main attractions of the festival, challenges itself to take on the social history of "Sexuality in Germany 1910-1945." Stuart Marshall, its director, manages both humor and pathos as he presents us with talking heads of historians and individuals who lived through the period, archival shots, panoramic views of the German landscape and monumental Nazi architecture, and in the background, the haunting music of Schubert and Mahler.

Desire is wonderful in its consistent attention to distinguishing the experiences of men and women. It begins by tracing the development of the German "body culture" movement, with its worship of nature and the naked body — in opposition to the corrupting influence of civilization. A historian comments, however, that the ideals of platonic friendship, pedagogical eros and the glorification of sensual and bodily relationships remained inarticulate on the question of sexuality.

Rigid gender definitions, which were another aspect of the "body culture" movement, conferred order. The overlapping cultural ideal of friendship between men, rooted in 18th century national traditions and Greek ideals, made male homoeroticism permissible, but would later be the ideological base of the oppressive militarism of Nazism. Through oral history and archival material, *Desire* also chronicles the burgeoning Gay Rights movement in pre-Nazi Germany, the differences in intellectual approaches to homosexuality and the sexual freedom which flourished in such cities as Berlin.

The film then ambitiously attempts to unravel the forces behind the shifts in state and popular ideologies of sexuality which accompanied the rise of Nazism and the persecution of sexual difference. Given the poignancy of analogies between sexual culture in the contemporary United States

and Germany at the time the film chronicles, we particularly want this exercise to be successful. But it is here that the documentary becomes most muddled and seems to lose focus. Perhaps this is because it eschews authoritative narration, using instead the multiple voices of scholars and eyewitnesses. As a result, the complex cultural and social forces underlying this crucial chapter in lesbian and gay history remain, in the film, unsimplified. And, because of the ambit of its task, *Desire* ultimately lacks closure. It ends with a lyrical and moving sweep of the empty Flossenbug concentration camp, followed by a view of the Amsterdam Monument to the Gay Victims of Fascism.

Desire falls short of being a populist film, but it offers many precious moments, anecdotes and tidbits of social historical theory. For instance, although homosexuals suffered the second highest mortality of concentration camp victims, one striking conclusion the film makes is that the disintegration of the lesbian and gay community in Nazi Germany was more the result of a climate of harassment and mistrust and the ransacking of social networks than the criminalization of sexual activity or the actual imprisonment of homosexuals. The film uses textured, posed photographs of the Body Culture movement which are rich and often funny. Another riveting photograph in the film shows the grinning participants in the pillaging of Magnus Hirschfeld's Institute for Sexual Science. But at times *Desire* risks being boring, rescued only by the entertaining idiosyncrasies of the talking heads.

"I don't want to know what we learn from endless catalogues of horror — they immobilize me, and I don't want this film to disempower people," Stuart Marshall is quoted as saying in London's *Capital Gay*. The power of *Desire* is that it can inspire us with its visual beauty and its occasional lyrical appeals to emotion. But I wanted to be mobilized more. I wanted a clearer articulation of history. Nonetheless, and despite *Desire*'s other shortcomings, I am grateful to Marshall and producer Rebecca Dobbs for an amazingly sensitive film which, I hope, can set a point of departure for other filmic explorations of lesbian and gay history. □



Ulrike Ottinger on the set of 'Johanna D'Arc of Mongolia'

Sapphic adventure in Inner Mongolia

Feminist filmmaker Ulrike Ottinger's curious and difficult movie

Johanna D'Arc of Mongolia. Directed by Ulrike Ottinger. Screening in the New York International Festival of Lesbian and Gay Film, at the Biograph Cinema, June 20. (See other reviews of films in the Festival, this issue and in GCN's June 4 issue. For a complete schedule of films through June 20, call 212/866-6516.)

By Patricia White

Berlin filmmaker Ulrike Ottinger is a key, if singular, figure in West German feminist film culture. Her films are lengthy, highly stylized epics of women, culture and deviance, notable for their extravagant costumes and intricate, expressive sound tracks. Her latest feature, *Johanna D'Arc of Mongolia*, which premiered in competition at the Berlin Film Festival, is no exception in its length (165 minutes) and "difficulty." Premiering here in the New Festival, *Johanna...* presents a curious occasion to assess Ottinger's critical role in lesbian cinema. Ottinger's work is of cultic proportions among lesbians in West Germany and France, and the film is certainly concerned with femininity, fantasy and desire. However, the better part of *Johanna...* is an on-location "documentary" of life and ritual in Inner Mongolia, as the Western women travellers on the Trans-Mongolian Express are abducted by festively-clad Mongolian women on camels and wild horses, led by the not unprepossessing princess Ulun Iga (Xu Re Huar), the closest thing to a Joan of Arc in the film.

The veiled sapphic substance comes to light as the cast of characters convenes on the sumptuously reconstructed Trans-Siberian Express. Genteel ethnographer Lady Windemere, (played by the divine Delphine Seyrig, icon of the avant-garde and feminist film advocate) snatches nubile jeans-clad backpacker Giovanna (Ines Sastre, who moves awkwardly through the film like a Bruce

Weber model) from her third class bunk in order to exercise what the film calls "pedagogical eros" over her. If Windemere later loses the girl, it is to — who else? — the princess. Other travellers include Fassbinder actress Irm Hermann as Frau Mueller-Vohlwinker, the classic German traveler, who consults her Baedeker Guide at every juncture; Fanny Ziegfeld, a Broadway diva (Gillian Scalici); and Mickey Katz (Peter Kern), a Yiddish-American opera star whose epicurean eccentricities are intentional show stealers. We are treated to a high-camp dining car cabaret, backed by the fabulous "Kalinka Sisters," on this first leg of a fantastic imperial(ist) voyage.

Ottinger's expert rendering of subcultural style is familiar from her earlier masterpieces like *Ticket of No Return*. But halfway through *Johanna...*, this style gives way to more straightforward cultural documentation, as the stage set is replaced, in reverse shot, by a camel caravan. Thenceforth we witness a "confrontation between imagination and reality" among the semi-nomadic Mongolian ladies. Lady Windemere (a name pinched, like many of Ottinger's references, from Oscar Wilde) provides commentary on the customs of the Mongols with absurd anthropological exactitude. Gorgeous cinematography and a leisurely pace (the film was shot by Ottinger) characterize the Mongolian sequence. The "authenticity" of the ethnographic footage is undermined by the framing narrative, the "twist" ending and the fact that so much of what we see is unexplained. The viewer is forced to ponder the Western eye of the film — and has plenty of time to do so.

Don't miss *Johanna...* for the first segment — a to-die-for send-up of armchair Orientalism — and stay for the rest for a vision of women and adventure unheard of outside of the world of female-authored sword and sorcery fiction. □

Cheryl Wheeler's world-class irreverence

Bobbi Carmitchell needs a little more edge, a little more salt

Cheryl Wheeler. Bobbi Carmitchell opening. Paine Hall, Cambridge, Mass. May 20.

By Mara Math

Opening for Cheryl Wheeler was Bobbi Carmitchell, a singer-songwriter whose personality outshines her lyrics. Her guitar work is lovely, but the impact is diminished by the blandly humanistic lyrics. Lines like "Life is for the living..." are just the kind of thing that folkie-haters use to justify their prejudice. Evidently aware of this tendency in her work, Carmitchell parodied her own "Simple Song" with an Elmer Fudd rendition, which, unfortunately, suited it all too well. An engaging performer with a warm presence, Carmitchell needs a bit more edge, a little more salt, to become a folk favorite.

When she's not deftly charting the pain of love or her longing for home and childhood days, singer-songwriter Cheryl Wheeler is one of the funniest women alive. She not only writes some hysterically funny songs, but in person she has a droll delivery that accents her humor perfectly. A gifted guitarist with beautiful vocal phrasing, she well deserves her nomination as "Best Female Vocalist" in the 1989 Boston Music Awards.

A Marylander by birth (just think, Cheryl and I growing up a mere 30 miles apart, sigh)



Cheryl Wheeler

who now lives in Swansea, MA, Wheeler opened with "Northern Girl," and no one who has just survived another seven-month winter could fail to be moved by this ballad of homesick longing for sun and warmth. "It took a New England sky/to make me realize/I ain't no northern girl/I been too long away." Previously found only on the October '85 Fast Folk album, "Northern Girl" will appear on Wheeler's third album, due out

Continued on page 12

White Patriot

Continued from page 6

other white supremacists that they can get away with homophobic hate violence, Young said "Most of the members of the White Patriots or the KKK [Ku Klux Klan] are dumb rednecks, because the only qualification to become a member is that they have white skin. Ninety-nine percent of them are dumb bigots, but they are not dangerous and violent. The one percent that are going to be violent are going to do it anyway, regardless of this case."

Segrest said she thought the verdict would be considered "a victory" by white supremacists around the country who had been watching the case. She added that she thought the prosecution had done "the best it could" with the evidence available. She also stressed that it was important that no one at the trial had denied that the crime was perpetrated by neo-nazis bent on killing people they thought were gay.

Segrest added that the Shelby attack and subsequent trial had forced the people in the small North Carolina town to address many issues, including their attitudes about violence and homosexuality. She said two of the witnesses who testified in the case were

gay, and that the families of the victims grappled with questions about their relatives' sexuality while dealing with the grief and shock at the brutality of the murders. (The families of all the victims say the men were not gay.)

After the jury handed down the verdict, vigils were held in Greensboro and Winston-Salem, according to Segrest. In addition, a coalition of 12 lesbian and gay civil rights groups rallied in Raleigh June 2 and presented a petition to Gov. Martin asking him to include anti-gay hate violence within the mandate of his Task Force on Racial, Religious and Ethnic Violence and Intimidation.

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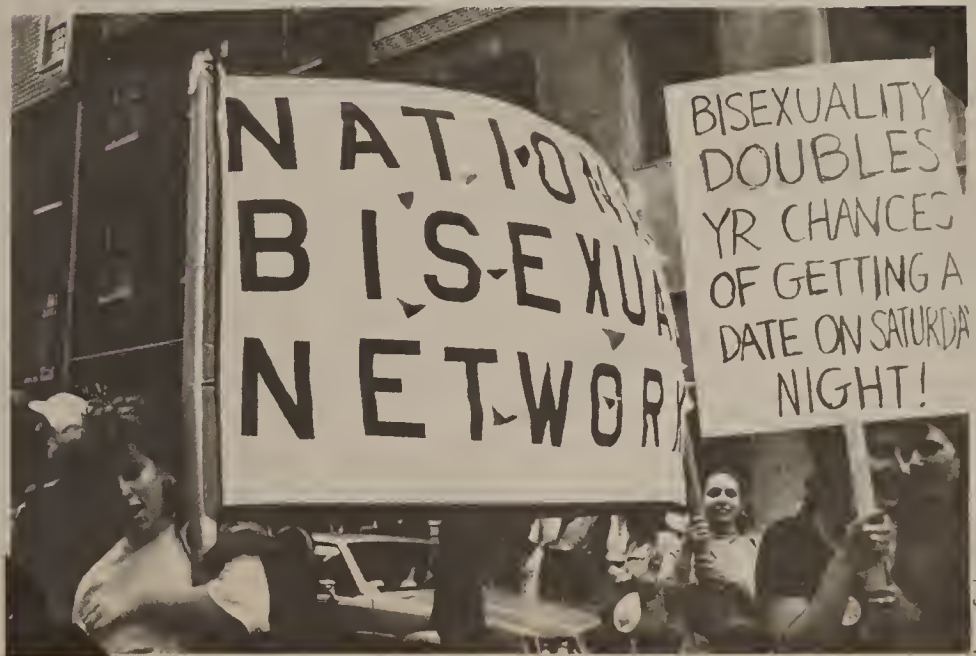
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A scene from 'Minus One'

Lesbian auto-eroticism and 'classic' relationship issues

Harriet Malinowitz's Minus One is a charming play in an unkempt production

Minus One. By Harriet Malinowitz. Directed by Sara Cytron. Produced by Mimi Brown. With Babs Davy, Kate Fleming, Laura Levy, and Nomi Tichman. At the 13th Street Theatre, 50 West 13th St. Through June 24.

By Maria Maggenti

Harriet Malinowitz's first dramatic work, *Minus One*, is a charming, warm, exasperating, funny play stuck in an unfortunately unkempt production directed by Sara Cytron. Portraying the lives of four lesbian friends (who are actually defined as two couples) over the course of almost two years, *Minus One* is billed as a play "about lesbian friendship." Friendship is given but a cursory examination, however, compared to the focus on neurotic female self-obsession in the context of monogamous coupling.

The piece opens with Clara (Nomi Tichman), a big woman with alabaster skin and a cherubic face framed by black silky curls, sitting in a rowboat on a lake in New Hampshire. Clara informs us that she has died and that what we are about to see is the world of her friends before and after her death. We are summarily introduced to our lesbian quartet for the evening, Holly and Pam, and Clara and Rachel. Cytron has them all start out sitting together in pairs in rowboats. This is a wise choice, for it sets a tone for some of the issues later raised in the play. Most specifically, what happens to graceful and symmetrical couples who, due to circumstances beyond their control, watch their relationships slowly unravel into romantic dissonance and asymmetrical intimacies?

Holly and Pam read as the quintessential mismatched pair of butch/femme dykes. Holly (Laura Levy) is the externally effervescent, "emotional," enough-about-me-what-do-you-think-of-me? charmer in the crowd who wants everyone to tell everything (especially their innermost secrets) to everyone. Her lover Pam (Babs Davy) is the classic butch: an athletic, tight-lipped, Midwestern gal whose still waters, we are led to believe, do run deep. Clara and Rachel (played by Kate Fleming) are the more complicated of the foursome, not easily stereotyped though probably easily recognizable to many lesbians. They have been lovers since they met at summer camp when they were 15 ("except for a break from 17-25," says Clara). Rachel dotes on the insecure Clara who is an aspiring opera singer. It is apparent by the end of Act I, however, that Clara has a serious compulsive eating problem and that Rachel's adoration masks co-dependency.

Clara is the centerpiece of everyone's attention, not because she is necessarily so charming and witty, but because she is often demanding and self-absorbed. She also seems to be having fits of memory loss and can't seem to concentrate on anything. Alas! It's a brain tumor! — a dramatic intrusion into the characters' lives that could

have been better handled by Cytron. The actors did not seem comfortable with this aspect of the story and the direction turns maudlin and awkward. However, I found it interesting indeed that in the midst of so much work by gay men about AIDS a lesbian writer would choose to deal with lesbians and death. (It is not clear that Malinowitz wishes to make any connections here for there is a dramatic difference between the collective grief and rage that gay men feel about AIDS and the so far seemingly unique and individuated experience of lesbians and cancer.)

Act I is by far the stronger part of the production. It is snappy and tight with extremely funny moments between the couples as they lie in their respective beds dealing with "classic" lesbian relationship issues — autonomy and intimacy, nurturing and suffocation, addiction and co-dependence. These scenes are managed by the actors with honesty, liveliness and well-tuned humor. In addition, Cytron has added small touches which accurately portray some parts of the lesbian community — namely, the lesbian-feminist part. When Pam picks up "something to read," it is the well-known feminist newspaper *Off Our Backs*. In the kitchen, stuck on the refrigerator door there is a sticker that reads "Violence Against Women Is Not Sexy." When Clara calls her lover Rachel "mommy" in a moment of tenderness and need, she just as quickly pulls away and shrieks, "Omigod! We're sick! This is really sick for me to call you mommy!! Aagh!" Lesbian auto-criticism, especially the type nurtured in feminist therapy, clicks into gear and there was much appreciative laughter during these scenes by the mostly female audience that packed the theater on the show's second night.

Unfortunately, this captivating sketch of the characters — which seems for a moment like Alison Bechdel's *Dykes to Watch Out For* come to life — dissolves into protracted sentimental solipsism in the hour and thirty minutes that is Act II. This is a real shame, because once the characters ceased to be sympathetic, the audience retreated from the story and the strain was palpable. There was a *sotto voce* wish heard in the dark among the women assembled that the play "get to the good part," for it soon became apparent that the meat of the story would not be in lesbian friendship but in the lesbian lover relationships that emerge after Clara's death. These lover relationships, by the way, are unfortunately sex-less and there is nary a hot physical moment between any of the actresses. (This prompted a couple of women in the audience to wonder out loud if the actresses themselves were lesbians.)

Ultimately, *Minus One* can be seen as an important part of a continually evolving body of work by lesbian authors, and the ease with which the play deals with some aspects of lesbian life is certainly a tonic in these mean, homophobic and misogynist times. The script is strong and the issues raised are relevant. All this play needs is a

Continued on page 12

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Immigration

Continued from page 1

Wilson told *GCN* that the interrogation procedure by immigration officials and the stress of being sent back to London had caused him some "minor" medical problems. (Contrary to reports about Wilson's ordeal that circulated at the Fifth International Conference on AIDS in Montreal, Wilson was not strip-searched by rubber-gloved authorities, nor was he hospitalized on his return to London.)

While Wilson was being grilled in Minneapolis, a Danish man, Knud Josephsen, was encountering similar problems at Logan Airport in Boston. Josephsen was asked about his HIV status after an immigration official learned he was on his way to the AIDS conference. In addition to attending the Montreal meeting, Josephsen, sponsored by his government, intended to travel to several U.S. cities to conduct research about innovative practices in which people with HIV infection work cooperatively with health care providers to develop treatments.

Unlike Wilson, Josephsen was given the opportunity to continue his travel when immigration authorities "made some phone calls," and within hours obtained a 30-day waiver for Josephsen, according to Benjamin Schatz, director of the AIDS Civil Rights Project of the National Gay Rights Advocates, who is coordinating Josephsen's legal representation. Schatz said he did not know why Wilson was not given the same option, but that he thought the officials in Boston were interested in avoiding an international news event similar to the one generated by Minneapolis officials in March of this year. In that incident authorities detained Dutch PWA Hans Paul Verhoef who was on his way to the National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference in San Francisco.

International outcry over Verhoef's treatment, and pressure from activists concerned that people who had to travel through the U.S. to attend the Montreal Conference would face similar problems, led the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to issue a policy change May 18. The new policy allows people who have tested positive for HIV antibodies to apply for a 30-day waiver for U.S. travel that includes attending conferences, visiting relatives, conducting business or obtaining medical treatment. (U.S. immigration policy enacted in 1987 allows the exclusion and deportation of non-U.S. citizens who have tested positive for HIV antibodies.) The 30-day waiver policy specifically excludes travel for tourism or to visit friends.

Schatz said when the new INS policy was announced, officials said the waiver application process could take up to six weeks, jeopardizing the chances for people planning to go to the Montreal Conference. He added that he had in fact heard of several cases in which people who applied for the waivers before the conference were unable to attend because they were not granted before the conference began June 4.

Josephsen, who is currently conducting research in Boston, has filed an extension to his 30-day waiver. Schatz said it will be the first time such a request has been made. He added that when INS officials announced the new waiver policy in May, they "never indicated the possibility of extension."

If the extension is granted, said Schatz, the waiver policy will be "slightly less onerous," but he emphasized that both the exclusionary border policy and the waiver system remain unacceptable. He said Josephsen's case raises three primary concerns. The first is that the 30-day limit on waivers is arbitrary and absurd. "It presumes there is no reason for a person with HIV infection to be in the U.S. more than 30 days," said Schatz. "And it implies, absurdly, that a person who presents no health menace on the thirtieth day suddenly becomes a health menace the next day."

The second issue, according to Schatz, is that INS officials seek to detain people who are HIV antibody positive in an arbitrary and discriminatory manner. In Josephsen's case, he was asked about his HIV status because he was going to an AIDS conference.

And third, Schatz said, Josephsen's case highlights the more fundamental problem that present policies are "politically motivated and medically useless."

In addition to publicizing cases like Wilson's and Josephsen's, AIDS activists have organized to generate international condemnation for exclusionary immigration policies like those practiced in the U.S. Activists at the Montreal Conference successfully lobbied delegates to pass a motion

condemning countries with such restrictions.

According to Schatz, he and other activists have submitted a resolution to the International AIDS Society (IAS) which could have even more clout. The IAS, made up of scientists and researchers and others involved in AIDS work, is responsible for organizing the annual international conferences like the one held in Montreal. The proposal, which will be sent to all members and voted up or down, would ban future conferences in any country that has restrictive travel policies. Although Schatz said next year's conference in San Francisco is not included in the proposal, if current restrictions are maintained, the conferences planned for Boston in 1992 and Tokyo in 1995 would be jeopardized.

Schatz said he thought condemnation, especially from the medical community, might be the best weapon in the fight against discriminatory policies. "If we are able to get the IAS to ban future meetings, the U.S. won't want to lose the prestige, or the money associated with future conferences," he said.

□ filed from Boston

Montreal

Continued from page 3

called a press conference to voice his doubts about the HIV hypothesis. Flanked by activist Michael Callen, a patient of his for seven years, Sonabend delivered a stinging critique of the way HIV has been almost uniformly accepted as the sole cause of AIDS from both within the medical establishment and the gay community.

Sonabend hypothesized instead that AIDS may be due to a number of complicating factors — not just HIV — that include parasites, other sexually transmitted diseases, and the overuse of antibiotics by gay men during the 1970s. His theory drew considerable press attention, and the next day AIDS researcher Robert Gallo was pressed by journalists to defend his HIV theory. Gallo responded characteristically by saying his critics don't know what they are talking about. Gallo added that the reason AIDS research is taking so long is that he has to spend so much time answering his critics.

Interestingly, one of Gallo's most noted critics, California molecular biologist Dr. Peter Duesberg, a former colleague of Gallo, chose not to come to Montreal, saying the conference was merely a gathering of the HIV research and pharmaceutical establishment. Also conspicuously absent was Dr. Shyh-Ching Lo, who is allegedly investigating another agent called VLIA (Virus-like Infectious Agent), which is apparently also found in the blood of many people with AIDS. His research, being conducted by the U.S. Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, is said to be tightly under wraps, and when unveiled later this year, could pose a significant challenge to the HIV hypothesis.

The conference also featured some fascinating evening sessions on the relationship between AIDS and the arts in a program entitled SIDART, SIDA being the French acronym for AIDS. Leading theorists and artists such as Douglas Crimp, John Greyson, Michael Lynch, Yves Navarre, Michel Tremblay, Simon Watney, Jan Zita Grover, and many others discussed issues of concern to artists involved in work related to AIDS. The four sessions were devoted to cultural aesthetics, literature, film and television, and produced a number of lively debates over the representation of gay people in artistic productions about AIDS. Several filmmakers were taken to task for failing to reflect any sort of gay sensibility in their work, despite that gay communities have been among the hardest hit by the epidemic.

These heated discussions, along with the multiple protests through the week, showed conference delegates that they'll find it harder and harder to ignore the real needs and desires of the affected communities who are most involved in the struggle against AIDS on a daily basis.

In some ways, the conference marked a turning point: As the voices of people with AIDS were heard louder than ever by the people and institutions responsible for their care and treatment, the week's events made it clear that — until the crisis is ended — those voices will never again remain silent.

Wheeler

Continued from page 7
next fall on Capitol.

Wheeler possesses not only a keen wit but a world-class irreverence. In "Estate Sale" she sang merrily of "Goin' through/dead people's houses", and after the first collective gasp, the audience dissolved into laughter. Later in the show she smacked another sacred cow on the butt with "Little Kids," which describes the terrors of rug rat invasion while deploring the isn't-that-cute syndrome besetting so many parents. And in a brief little ditty she calls "An Anthem to Food," she sings gleefully of the joys of junk food.

Her humor can be topical, as well: she declared that she had, just barely, been talked out of putting a bumper sticker on her car that read, "BLOW THE NRA AWAY." In "Don't Forget the Guns, Honey," she blithely reinvents a cross-country trip she took with her family, this time from the perspective of those National Rifle Association cheerleaders: "We don't look for trouble/but by golly if we're in it/it's nice to know/we're free to blow/900 rounds a minute!"

Wheeler's serious songs often have a bittersweet, lyrical quality, and she is a master of the telling detail. In "Arrow," one of her best known songs, she sings of wanting to fall in love while still bound by old memories: "I remember you in the (blue) TV light." "Quarter Moon," another Wheeler classic, renders the lives of her elderly neighbors with a few quick, sure strokes: "And they buried their old dog in their backyard/With a fence and plastic roses and St. Francis standing guard/She speaks of him quite often, to this day she takes it hard/And they buried their old dog in their backyard." "Walking" is another nostalgic song, recalling the time when Wheeler and her childhood cohorts were the true owners of their neighborhoods by virtue of their intimate knowledge of it. "Summer Fly" blends longing for a lover with longing for long-gone days of childhood summer when "a pure and golden high/is all that I remember/and the wind was just the tongue for the voices inside my head."

If you've never seen Cheryl Wheeler, do so now, before she becomes famous and unaffordable. On second thought, Wheeler is one of those few performers I'd pay almost any amount to see, and there's one thing we can be sure of: no one with her sense of humor will be ruined by success. □

Pride

Continued from page 1

acknowledged the particularly difficult position of gay, lesbian, and bisexual youth in our society.

And the contingent of bisexual organizations — including the Boston Bisexual Women's Network and the Boston Bisexual Men's Network — was an especially strong presence this year, carrying signs such as "Bisexuals are not fence-sitting; There is no fence."

Contingents ranging from church organizations to athletes to college students filled out the parade. Several different church groups were there, and, as always, the Unitarian Universalist church on Arlington St. and the office on Beacon St. gave the parade warm and hearty welcomes. In addition, the gay and lesbian religious organizations, Dignity and Am Tikva, were both well represented. There were marchers and banners from most of the area's colleges. Students shouted out many chants, such as Brown's "Two, four, six, eight; The Ivy League is not so straight!" Some of Boston's finest athletes joined the crowd, including the all-gay Strikers and the all-lesbian Pinkos and Queers soccer teams. Several gay runners groups such as the Frontrunners would hold up a column of marchers for seconds and then sprint forward, banner and all.

Cheers and applause greeted members of Fenway Community Health Center and the AIDS Action Committee (AAC) and a variety of other health-related organizations, in recognition of the health community's response to AIDS, as well as its commitments to women's health and research on new technologies in reproduction.

Strollers and toddlers circled around other marchers, signifying the large presence of children at Pride this year, as Lesbians Choosing Children and Gay Fathers of Greater Boston passed by. As always, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays received a rousing response from gay and lesbian onlookers.

The rally on the Boston Common was boldly led by local comedian and singer Lea

DeLaria. Early on, DeLaria kept the crowd roaring with her description of life in Provincetown, Mass. ("the gay and lesbian Disneyland") and later she and her comedy troupe, Girl Friday, did their own special church service featuring Hymn Number 1, "Tra-la-la Lesbian." On a more serious note, many of the rally's speakers described the gradual evolution of the gay community in the twenty years since Stonewall. Maxine Feldman, long-time lesbian activist and singer/songwriter described the first gay pride march in Los Angeles in 1970. There were fewer than 100 people and many of them wore paper bags over their heads. Feldman noted that there were 62,000 marchers in Boston this year "and not one fucking paper bag." Mel King reflected on the history of the community, as well, when he spoke of Barney Frank co-signing the first gay and lesbian rights legislation in Massachusetts in 1973. After 17 years of struggle, the community is still working for its passage.

The Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus contingent and supporters were bolstered by Arline Isaacson's speech at the rally. Isaacson spoke about the history of the lesbian and gay rights bill, which is now on the Senate floor [see related story, page 2]. She urged all of Boston's groups to "work together despite our differences" to get this bill passed. "There is only one enemy," said Isaacson. "The enemy is homophobia." David Scondras, Boston's only openly-gay City Council member also spoke at the rally. He emphasized that the struggle "isn't easy, but we're winning...we're on the road to unity."

Steve Tierney of the Caucus said that although Pride has always been a day of coming out, of visibility, "coming out defines us in terms of them." This year, he emphasized, "this day is about coming in — about defining ourselves in terms of the gentle army of lovers gathered here on the Common." It is this community, Tierney noted, which is now saying to those in the State House, "Your rules don't work for us. We've been patient long enough. It's our rights this year or your jobs next year."

What these speakers all reflected and what so many organizations, intentionally or unintentionally, used as a theme at Boston's 1989 Lesbian and Gay Pride celebration was the effort of the community to acknowledge and record its own struggle. As Feldman suggested in her speech to the crowd, "the queens and fairies led the way, saying 'no' in 1969." This moment of resistance is acknowledged in the Pride Committee's choice of the theme "Stonewall 20: A Generation of Pride," and the importance of memory is implicit. The straight community is clearly not seeking or writing the history of our community. It is our project alone. The NAMES Quilt is certainly one of the most impressive efforts at collective remembering ever undertaken. It is impossible to view the Quilt without feeling the presence of missing members of our community. Their presence is carried on not only by the complex pattern of cloth that is the Quilt, but more importantly by the telling of each individual story.

Year after year the lesbian and gay rights bill has been introduced and shot down, often by the act of a single committee leader and in spite of majority support in the Senate. The bill and its history are a record of the persistent efforts of the community, over 17 long years, to gain legal equality. At the Pride march this year, banner after banner announced the history of local groups and institutions: Daughters of Bilitis and the 1270 both celebrate their 20th anniversaries this year; the Alliance of Massachusetts Asian Lesbians and Gay Men is 10 years old; Moving Violations and the Batucada Belles are both celebrating 5 years of existence; and 1989 marks the second anniversary of LESLAS (Lesbianas Latinas). These groups and all those gathered on the Common June 10th are records of our common history and pride. They are each a moment on the Gay Time Line. These acts of remembering — Stonewall, Lesbian and Gay Pride, the NAMES Project and others — are essential to the unification of the gay and lesbian community, both in Boston and nationally, and to our continued struggle for liberation.

Minus One

Continued from page 10

director with a firmer hand who knows when to say "no" and how to say "yes" to the many demanding and conflicting experiences that lesbian life has to offer. □

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I'm a gay Black male, 21, and I love writing and most of all I love meeting people, dancing, and music (Anita Baker, Stephanie Mills, Jody Watley). Thank you, Rufus WILSON, 139-347, Box 56, Lebanon OH 45036.

45 yr young GM in prison for many years due to my self-defense reaction being victim to a basher/mugger robbery. I am dying of despair, loneliness and hopelessness. Stamps appreciated. Richard Joe KIDD, Box B72191, Represa CA 95671.

I'm 27, Sagittarius, fun loving, looking for sincere correspondence. SASE would help much. David NUETZEL, 077780 (154), 1150 SW Allapattah Rd, Indiantown FL 34956.

I would like to write some people in the free world, some gays and bisexuals who will be honest and open. I'm 22, Libra, like to body build, sports and safe sex, and am the macho in a relationship. Jimmy BAGGETT, 404075, Rt 1 Box 1, Huntsville TX 77349.

I'm gay and would like to be on your pinpal list. I'm 31, Black, love swimming and traveling and am very versatile. Thank you for your time. Charles MURRAY, 849486 (S-6), 3876 Evans Rd Box 50, Polk City FL 33868.

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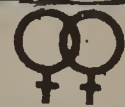
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WOMEN & AIDS

Making It, A Woman's Guide to Sex in the Age of AIDS (in both Spanish and English!) is available to women in prison/institutions for FREE by writing: Firebrand Books, 141 The Commons, Ithaca, NY 14850.

I'm looking for a free world gay female who is an understanding and honest person. I'm 35 and looking for a lasting friendship relationship. Deborah Turner WYNN, 6987, PO Box 180, Muncy PA 17756.

I need someone to confide in. I'm 25, hips, lips and fingertips; eyes, thighs and otherwise. So if there's some nice Butch out there looking for a loveable person, here I am. (Not allowed to write other prisoners.) Angela DAVIS, A498084, PO Box 8540 (164), Pembroke Pines FL 33024.



33 yr old effeminate male who enjoys outdoor life (hiking, camping etc), rock 'n roll of late '60s and early '70s, receiving/giving affection, such as cuddling, caressing, hugs; seeking correspondence. Race and age no problem. Can write other prisoners. Dee Jay McCLURE, 45626, Box 1568, Hutchinson KS 67504.

I would like to meet a gay man to build a relationship and share thoughts of one another sexually. I like Greek with a rubber and French in 69. Will send a picture and also want one. Dennis MASS, Box 3845, Reidsville GA 30499.

GM 46 new to this lifestyle would like to write someone sincere and lonely. Prefer very femme. I can't write other prisoners. Charles SANFORD, 096641, F-52, 500 Orange Ave Circle, Belle Glade FL 33430.

I am very lonely and need someone to talk with. I can't correspond with anyone who is currently a prisoner. I have NO race hangup, and would like to meet someone for friendship or more. James WILKINS, D-62729 Rm 8203, Box 8101, San Luis Obispo CA 93409.

I'm looking for a Macho Soldier to take me as I stand. I'll be your little toy master and you can be my "Man". I want a lover to beat me to freedom and keep me there. Tim Sundren, 52511, 2605 State St, Salem OR 97310

I would like to have a homosexual penpal. I'm 20, dark complexion and in need of getting a friend of some kind. Race doesn't concern me. Black, white, Mexican. Any race will suit me just fine. Keith WARE, 110495 DC/EC, 3950 Tiger Bay Rd, Daytona Beach FL 32014.



White Southern Queen seeks correspondence with Black men of the free world. I'm a firm believe that gay is good and black is better. I'm also the secretary of the newly formed gay rights committee here. Hope to hear from someone. Jackie Velle JOHNSON, 873384, Box 41, Michigan City IN 46360.

I would very much appreciate it if you could help me find someone to write. I'm G/P, Fr A/P, and will answer all letters. Robert JOYNER, EL-157243, SMU L-2, Star Route, Reidsville GA 30499.

Very lonely male would love to hear from you all out there. I enjoy sex, housecleaning, laundry, quiet moments together and movies. (Please write me Mr. Brooks in NY. I miss your letters.) Richard Nichols, PO Box 629-64084, Florence AZ 85232.

To my Princess-Wade: I just want you to know how much a part of my life you are. Your Teddy Bear, Jeffery.



Calendar

28 Wednesday □ GLAD's Kevin Cathcart (pictured right) joins attorney Barbara Macy, Fag Rag's Charley Shively and NGLTF's Sue Hyde at a forum on Sex and the Law. UMass, 259 Stuart St., Rm. 222, 7:30-9:30. Info: 426-1350.

Calendar listings must be received by the Monday before the week of the event. Photos encouraged. Please specify if event is/is not wheelchair accessible and/or sign language interpreted. Please use our format as a guide for listings and put each event on a separate sheet, if possible.

17 Saturday

Henniker, N.H. □ N.H. Pride Celebration with Kate Clinton, Romanovsky & Philips, and more. Pat's Peak. 10am. \$15. **Pride Dance** follows at 8pm. \$5. Jack 603/669-0096.

Boston □ Prime Timers monthly meeting at the Lindemann Health Center, 25 Stanford St. Speaker Richard Freeman, artistic director of the New Ehrlich Theater. 2-4pm. \$1.

Boston □ celebrASIAN '89, 10th Anniversary of the Alliance of Mass. Asian Lesbians and Gays. Open house at Boston City Hall lobby. Panel discussion, cultural events, play and dance. 7pm. \$6/adv. \$7-10 at door. 499-9535.

Cambridge □ Book Sale at Women's Center. Hundreds of books for sale from 25 cents to \$1. Proceeds go to Prison Book Program and the GCN Prisoner Project. 46 Pleasant St. 10-2pm. 354-8807.

Boston □ Woolf, a film by Virginia Sandman, Boston Film/Video Foundation, 1126 Boylston St. 8pm. \$5. 536-1540. Not wheelchair accessible. Also 6/18.

18 Sunday

Canton □ Community-wide AIDS Healing, Memorial Service co-sponsored by Am Tikva, Temple Beth David, 256 Randolph St. 4pm. 782-8894.

Boston □ Chiltern Mountain Club. Frisbee toss and short hike in Carlisle State park. Keena 508/263-6936.

Lowell □ Gay in the Merrimack Valley monthly potluck. First Grace Church, 225 Stedman St., Unit 31. 6-9pm. 508/452-4686.

Cambridge □ Outrageous Women, featuring D.J. Fire, non-alcoholic beverages, auction, prize for most outrageous costume. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 8pm-1am. \$5.

Roxbury □ Healing service for all affected by AIDS. The First Church of Roxbury, a Unitarian Universalist Congregation located at John Eliot Sq. 7pm. 445-1277.

Marlboro □ West of Boston Lesbians brave the rapids of the Concord River with a canoe trip. Contact Janis 508/386-7737.

Boston □ Woolf, a film by Virginia Sandman. See 6/17, 4pm.

Boston □ Protest Father's Day and patriarchal violence against women and children. Boston Common gazebo, noon. Includes a father's day naming project in which perpetrators of violence, incest, rape, wife and child abuse will be named. 782-4246.

19 Monday

Boston □ Legal issues and HIV. Denise McWilliams of GLAD and Robert Greenwald of AAC speak on the legal issues surrounding HIV infection. 93 Mass Ave. Part of FCHC's Living Well Series. 6-8pm. 267-0900.

20 Tuesday

Boston □ FCHC community meeting for lesbian and gay community to provide input on the health center's new building. 323 Newbury St. 2nd floor. 7pm. 267-0900.

Boston □ Country western dancing at Buddies, 51 Stuart St. 9pm. 330-8669

21 Wednesday

Boston □ Boston Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays meets every other week. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington and Back Bay T-stops. 6:30pm. Carla, 524-3370.

22 Thursday

Boston □ GCN Production Night All welcome. Proof-reading starts at 5pm. Paste-up after 7pm. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington and Back Bay T-stops. Info: GCN: 617-426-4469

Boston □ FCHC Third Annual Public Forum of the health center's research department. Rabb Lecture Hall at the Boston Public Library. 6:30-8:30pm. Open to the public. 267-0900

Boston □ Boston Living Center general meeting, including potluck. Sponsored by the community center run by and for all those affected by AIDS. PWAs attend as free guests of the center. UMass downtown campus Rm. 222. 7pm. 734-6339.

23 Friday

Boston □ GCN Mailing. Come help stuff the paper and meet new friends. 5-10pm. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington and Back Bay T-stops. Info: GCN, 617/426-4469.

Boston □ Pat Roth Schwartz signs her new book "The Names of the Moons of Mars" at Glad Day Bookshop, 673 Boylston St. 4-6pm. 267-3010.

24 Saturday

Brookline □ Am Tikva spends day at Spy Pond in Arlington. Brng bag lunch. Raindate is 6/25. 782-8894.

25 Sunday

Boston □ Chiltern Mt. Club. Hike up Moosilauke, N.H. Mike 603/644-7658. Also hike on Mts. Welch and Dickey Loop Trail. 603/624-8955.

Boston □ Rock Against Sexism Dry T-shirt night. 1270 Club, 1270 Boylston St. 6-10pm. Must be 21 or older to get in. \$2.

26 Monday

Boston □ Celebrate GCN at community party in honor of all readers, volunteers, contributors to our fundraising campaign. It's also GCN's 16th birthday! Club Cabaret, 209 Columbus. 6:30-9:30pm. Free admission/cash bar. Wheelchair access. RSVP: 617/426-4469, tty: 617/426-0332.

28 Wednesday

Boston □ An Evening with Bob Malchodi, Wellness Coordinator at AAC. 93 Mass. Ave. 6-8pm. Part of FCHC's Living Well Series. 267-0900.

Provincetown □ Torch Song Trilogy Performed by New England Repertory Company. Town Hall. Thru 7/8. 508/487-6400.

Boston □ Sex & the Law forum, sponsored by Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders. UMass, 250 Stuart St. Rm. 222. 7:30-9:30pm. Speakers: Kevin Cathcart of GLAD, Sue Hyde of NGLTF, attorney Barbara Macy, Charley Shively of Fag Rag. 426-1350.

29 Thursday

Boston □ GCN Production Night. All welcome. Proof-reading starts at 5pm. Paste-up after 7pm. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington and Back Bay T-stops. Info: GCN: 617/426-4469.

30 Friday

Boston □ GCN Mailing. Come help stuff the paper and meet new friends. 5-10pm. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington and Back Bay T-stops. Info: GCN, 617/426-4469.

Saturday July 1

Provincetown □ Torch Song Trilogy See 6/28.

2 July

Boston □ GALA's monthly potluck. Bring something to eat. Tom's house, 7pm. 282-8515.

Weekly events

Saturday

Boston □ The Boston Area Rape Crisis Center new training session for hotline. 617/492-RAPE.

Cambridge □ SANCHIN Women's School of Karate and Self Defense for women of all ages, abilities. YWCA, 7 Temple St. 3-5pm. T.-Th. 6-8pm. 547-3889

Boston □ Women's Self-Defense Collective. Women's Self-Defense Classes All ages, abilities. Wed. eves., Sat. afternoons. 574-9433

Boston □ Gay Boston, with Jim Voltz. Boston neighborhood Network, channels A3 and A8. 7:30-8pm.

Boston □ Body Electric. Healing with group sensual massage for gay and bisexual men. 551 Tremont. 7:30pm. \$12. 522-9164



Sunday

Boston □ Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth (BAGLY). Open to youth age 22 and under. 35 Bowdoin St. 2-5pm. 354-6658.

Boston □ Metro Healing healing group for everyone. Metropolitan Health Club aerobics room, 209 Columbus Ave. 7:30-9:30pm. 426-9205.

Boston □ "Boston's Other Voice," radio for gay/lesbian community with Peter Stickell. 6/18, Part I: Opinions on jerking off; Part II: Robert Bensing, prisoners' rights advocate, talks about AIDS, censorship, homophobia, sex and violence in prison. 11pm. WROR 98.5FM.

Boston □ The Gay Dating Show, WUNR 1600 AM. 2:30am. Lesbians and Gay Men.

Monday

Cambridge □ Healing Circle group healing. 5 Upland Rd. 7:30-9:30pm. \$5 suggested. 864-1989.

Cambridge □ Lesbian Rap. 6/19 Lesbian Sex. 6/26 Discussing the Rap. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-10pm. Free. 354-8807 (TTY/voice).

Cambridge □ Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights holds bi-weekly planning meeting. 142 Memorial Drive, room 306. 7pm. 776-6956.

Tuesday

Boston □ Gay Fathers of Greater Boston meet 1st & 3rd Tues. of the month. Lindemann Ctr., 2nd fl. 8-10pm. 742-7897.

Boston □ Gay and Lesbian Support Group for Adult Children of Alcoholics. Faulkner Hospital. 8:30-10pm. Intake interview required. 522-5800 x1908.

Boston □ Lesbian and Gay Concert & Marching Band. No audition necessary. YWCA, 120 Clarendon St. 7:15pm. Joe 625-3304, Zoe 396-2989.

Cambridge □ The Group, Walker Memorial MIT on Memorial Drive. 8pm. 266-1129.

Providence, RI □ ACT-UP/Rhode Island open meetings. Rocket, 73 Richmond St. 7pm. Bill, 782-9063.

Roxbury □ ACT UP/Boston meets to confront the AIDS crisis. Room 345, Bldg. 3, Roxbury Community College. 7pm. 49-ACT UP

Cambridge □ Bisexual Women's Rap. 6/20 Age differences. 6/27 Lovers/Pets/Solitude. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 7:30-10pm. 354-8807.

Cambridge □ 30-plus Lesbian Rap 6/20 Body Image. 6/27 Social Night. 7-8:30pm. The Women's Center (see above).

Cambridge □ Women For Sobriety A self help group for women recovering from addictions. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-9:30pm. 354-8807

Wednesday

Boston □ Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth Open to youth age 22 and under. 35 Bowdoin. New persons' meeting 6pm; women and men meet separately 6:45-7:30; general meeting at 7:30pm. 354-6658.

Cambridge □ Lesbian Al-Anon with childcare. Women's Center (see above). 6:30-8pm.

Cambridge □ MASS ACT OUT meeting. M.I.T., Building 66, Rm. 126. 7:30pm. 661-7737.

Boston □ Bisexual Children of Alcoholics. Mass. General Hosp., lower amphitheater, 7:30pm. 259-1559.

Cambridge □ "Say it, Sister!" WMBR, 88.1FM. 7-8pm.

Boston □ Women in the Building Trades. Free introductory workshops for women interested in union jobs and apprenticeships. 241 St. Botolph St. 6-8pm. 266-2338.

Boston □ Women's self-defense classes for women of all ages and abilities. See Sat. listing.

Thursday

Boston □ Names Project Quilting Bee. Bi-weekly through May. Arlington St. Church. 6pm. 451-9003.

Northampton □ Valley Gay Alliance meets 1st, 3rd Th. every month, basement of the Unitarian Church, 22 Main St. 7:30pm. 413/527-5310.

Stoneham □ Incest Survivors' Group for women. New England Memorial Hospital, 5 Woodland Rd. 5-6:30pm. Sara Epstein, 979-7025.

Cambridge □ Wise Woman Tradition Herbal Medicine and Women's Wisdom Classes. Sliding scale. Whitewolf, 277-8232.

Boston □ Boston Area Rape Crisis Center drop-in group for women who have been raped. 492-RAPE.

Cambridge □ Incest Survivors Group Women's Center (see above) 7:30-9:30pm.

Cambridge □ Non-offending male sexual abuse survivors group meets first Thursday of every month. Cambridge Ctr. of Commerce conference room, 859 Mass. Ave. 8:30-10pm. \$5 donation. 498-9881.

Friday

Worcester □ AIDS Project-Worcester support group for HIV positive, PWAs, PWARCs, supporters. Open to all lesbians, gay men. 51 Jackson St. 7-9pm. Dana 508/755-3773.

Boston □ Healing group for everyone. Santa Fe Hair Salon, 528 Tremont St. 7:30-9:30pm. 426-9205.

Cambridge □ Incest survivors group on death and grief. Short-term. Women's center (see above). 7pm.

Cambridge □ Women's Coffeehouse 6/16 Local musician Mary Knapp and guest Anne Sandstrom. 6/23 Eve Goldman, feminist music. 6/30 Robin Field, blues and country singer. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-midnight. 354-8807.

CALENDAR COMPILED BY
NAOMI STEIN

Almost Persuaded by Annie Griffin. Presented by the Women in Theatre Festival at Double Edge Theatre, Allston, Mass. May 31-June 4. The show will play New York's Public Theater in February and March of next year.

By Leigh Peake

The house lights dim and Annie Griffin — in sparkling red stiletto heels and white satin mini skirt — pulls bright red lipstick from her black clutch and scrawls on the wall: "I WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND ME." She steps forward to a small card table and flips on a cassette player. Tammy Wynette's lonely drawl rises and Annie Griffin begins to tell the evening's stories. Sponsored by the innovative and essential Women in Theatre Festival, Annie Griffin's *Almost Persuaded* is funny, compelling and most certainly persuasive.

The show's title song is Wynette's "Almost Persuaded," the story of a lonely, searching (married) southern woman who makes her way to a bar and is "almost persuaded" to go home with a stranger. But, instead, she gets in that taxi and goes home — alone. Is it a song about the oppression of monogamy, or is it about a woman making choices in which she finds strength? Rather than provide a definitive answer, Annie Griffin uses monologue, question and answer, and frenetic dramatization to draw out the boundaries that underlie the song and limit women's lives. As she says, "If you're a woman, there are some things you can do, and some things you can't. Some things you can say, and some things you can't."

For feminists, it is an age-old theme — the social construction of women's lives, the limitations, the threats. What is unique about *Almost Persuaded* is Griffin's powerful use of performance art to push on this theme. A sample: Griffin reminds us of definitions of what is "acceptable" behavior. She struts into the audience and says "I can't be over here, I have to be up there." She points to the man next to her and says "I can't talk to him because there's no trust there." Then she's on stage telling a story and she's a little girl, "just a mere suggestion of a woman" and she's out walking and there are nine boys walking behind her and



The edges of Southern women's lives

Annie Griffin's persuasive performance art

she's walking faster and faster and suddenly falling. And she says "sometimes things just go wrong on you. And sometimes someone *pushes* you." Next Griffin is flinging chairs, crashing them to the floor and asking "WHY? People don't hurt you on purpose. How could that happen?" Each sentence is punctuated by the sound of a falling chair. "You were asking for it." And finally, "Sometimes every fucking thing goes wrong — you just got to learn how to be careful with people." You just got to learn the boundaries.

Griffin's other stories range from play with the audience over "the most embarrassing moment of your life" and "your deepest, darkest secrets" to a fluent and humorously signed version of "Almost Persuaded" to, finally, a soulful monologue by a young southern wife trying to raise a family despite her abusive and often-absent husband. In each case Griffin successfully employs southern female characters (she herself is from Buffalo, and more recently, London) to illustrate more universal experiences. For this reviewer, *Almost Persuaded* is all the more unique and important *because* the voices are southern. In a society where a southern accent is taken as an indicator of stupidity and conservatism, Griffin lends these voices a power and clarity which insists that the audience take seriously the stories and experiences of southern women. In the same way, through Griffin's skillful presentation, the same recording artist who advises us to "Stand By Your Man" is shown to speak with a stronger, even feminist voice.

By the end of the night the message is clear. There is more to the situations and lives in which so many women find themselves than meets the eye. More than simply victimization. There is anger and confusion, yet there is also humor and victory in speaking out and gaining power. Moreover, while the edges of many women's lives — the moments of near persuasion — are laced with sadness and uncertainty, they suggest opportunities where women seek and gain control and satisfaction. With pride rather than torment, Griffin ends "So I took that taxi home, and put on my favorite Tammy Wynette record, I too, was almost persuaded. Tomorrow night I could go back and *be* persuaded. But I was *not* persuaded." □

Celebrate GCN

To mark the successful completion of the GCN Challenge, our \$50,000 fundraising campaign...

On the occasion of the 16th birthday of the oldest lesbian and gay newsweekly in the United States...

To show appreciation for all those who contributed to our campaign...

And in honor of 16 years of volunteers who have made GCN possible...

GCN cordially invites all of its readers, including community activists, advertisers, donors, and friends to a "thank you" reception.

**Monday, June 26, 6:30-9:30pm
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For information and RSVP, call (617) 426-4469, tty 426-0332

GLAD

Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders

GLAD FORUM SEX AND THE LAW

This month marks the third anniversary of the Hardwick decision, where the United States Supreme Court ruled that states can make "sodomy", a term that can cover a wide range of sexual activities, illegal. Twenty-five states, including Massachusetts, and the District of Columbia, have sodomy laws on the books, laws which are used primarily against gay men and lesbians.

The forum will look at the Hardwick decision, sexual liberation, the status of sex arrests in Massachusetts, and post-Hardwick lesbian and gay politics.

University of Massachusetts, Park Square Campus, 250 Stuart Street, Room 222, Boston

Wednesday, June 28, 1989
7:30-9:30 p.m.

Kevin Cathcart (Executive Director, GLAD)
Sue Hyde (National Gay and Lesbian Task Force)
Barbara Macy (Attorney)
Charley Shively (Fag Rag Collective)

Call Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) (617) 426-1350

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